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LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1858.

REVIEWS.

Murray's Handbook for Syria and Palestine. Part I. (John Murray.)

It is not our intention to weary the reader by a disquisition on handbooks of travel. Every one knows, or may inform himself in five minutes of reflection, what are likely to be their chief merits and defects. They will probably go on increasing, as the means of travel extend themselves, violently abused

and universally used.

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Here is a book, however, which makes an epoch in the history of works of its class. Not that it is any new thing to meet with manuals which aim at being exhaustive on the one hand, or readable on the other. Only that the former are sure to be heavy reading that the latter meagre. Mr. Murray's and the latter meagre. Mr. Murray's "Handbook for Syria and Palestine" is the first attempt of its kind in which the double aim has been ventured on, and with a double success. The enterprise had all the stimulus which can be supplied by a bona fide "felt Now that Oxford and Cambridge men strike out East and West during the ample months of the long vacation, so that one may hear the marvels of the Niagara Falls or the Nile Cataracts discussed by eyewitnesses side by side at wine-parties in the October term, one looks about for something which shall not only be portable and thoroughly practical, but which shall take a high literary rank as well. It is astonishing to find how, in the hands of a clever and determined man, the two things may be made to go together.

There never was a country—and, with all its solemn and tragic interest, who will wonder?-that had such a wealth of itinerary literature as Palestine can boast of. There is a list in the late Dr. Kitto's "Cyclopædia of Biblical Literature," which fills an entire column and very nearly a half with the bare names and titles of authors who have written on this subject, and of their books. Yet these are only such as appeared to the writer the most trustworthy and useful. All works of a merely curious or entertaining nature are purposely omitted. The list is chronologically arranged; and extends from the "Itinerarium" of the Blessed Martyr Antoninus, a 1640 edition, down to "Eöthen, Now we venture to say that if the books which have been consulted and referred to in the composition of Murray's Handbook were to be also written down in a list, they would likewise occupy their columns, and furnish a catalogue for a library. The amount of reading packed into these small volumes, and packed so well, is indeed surprising. We will take an instance, not absolutely at random, but with no effort in the selection. It is chosen from the hundred and six pages devoted to the single subject of Jerusalem.

One of the most interesting points in the economical history of Jerusalem is its supply of water. The cisterns and fountains alike raise "vexed questions" of archæological criticism, besides reminding us of associations without number both in the profane and the sacred histories. The image of some ever-flowing spring, the "fons perennis aque" of Tacitus (Hist. V. 12), entered into the very heart of the prophetical idea of Jerusalem. "There is a [perennial] river, the streams whereof shall make glad," &c.; "All

my fresh springs shall be in thee;" "Draw water out of the wells of salvation;" these are but a few of the passages on the subject, fresh and flowing as the fair waters them-selves, which abound in the Hebrew poets. And in Ezekiel's vision, as Canon Stanley has pointed out, the thought is expanded into a vast cataract, flowing out through the Temple rock, eastward and westward, into the ravines of Hinnom and Kedron, till it swells into a mighty river, fertilising the desert of the Dead Sea. Turning to the narratives of sieges, we find not a single account on record of the besieged suffering from thirst, although driven to the most dreadful extremities and resources by hunger; while the besiegers are frequently described as suffering greatly from want of water, and as having to fetch it from a great distance. The only imperfection in the ample account which the "Handbook" furnishes of these details is one which, in a less complete and able work, it would be beside the mark to point out. We mean that the Crusaders are dismissed with a single line. They, if any besieging army, prove to demonstration the dependence of the inhabitants upon a system of cisterns and aqueducts as opposed to the simple fountains. For while, at the siege of Titus, the well of Siloam may have been within the walls, and therefore in possession of the Jews, in the time of the Crusaders it was certainly held by the besieging Franks: and yet the latter perished, while the besieged had "ingentes copias aquee." In a work, moreover, where happy selections from the poets are of frequent occurrence, we might have welcomed a line or two from the vivid picture left by Tasso of the agonies of thirst endured by the first Crusaders. Meantime, it must be stated that the "Handbook" has quoted and discussed the passage from Tacitus, another from Strabo (Geog. 16, 2, 40), and another from Aristeas, an officer of Ptolemy Philadelphus. This man was sent to Jerusalem, in order to secure for the Alexandrian Library a copy of the Jewish Law. The quotation is taken from a letter (Arist. de LXX. interpretibus) the genuineness of which has been questioned: but it is admitted on all hands that it must have been written before the Christian era. To these are added notices of passages from the "Mishna," from the "Jerusalem Itinerary" (4th century), from the Apocrypha, and from the Scriptures. Let the book now speak for itself in the complete account given of Siloam, -Siloam, whose name has become an eponym of deeper and more lasting significance than Achelöus, Helicon, or Castalia:-

"In going from the Fountain of the Virgin to the 'Pool of Siloam,' we walk down the Kidron for some 300 yards, and then reach a verdant spot, sprinkled with trees and carefully cultivated. This is the site of the 'King's Gardens,' mentioned by Nehemiah as beside the 'Pool of Siloah.' (iii. 15.) The Tyropeon now opens on our right; and across its mouth is an ancient causeway, or embankment, forming a large basin above it, now cultivated. This was at one time a reservoir. On the end of the causeway stands a venerable mulberry-tree, supported by a pillar of loose stones; said to mark the spot where Manasseh caused the prophet Isaiah to be sawn asunder, and still called Isaiah's Tree.

"Turning up to the right, we pass the projecting cliff of Ophel, and soon stand beside Siloah's Pool. It is a rectangular reservoir, 53 feet long, 18 wide, and 19 deep, in part broken away at the western end. The masonry is modern; but along the side are six shafts of limestone columns, of more ancient date, projecting slightly from the

wall, and probably originally intended to sustain a roof. At the upper end of the pool is an arched entrance to a ruinous staircase, by which we descend to the mouth of the conduit that comes from the Fountain of the Virgin. Dr. Robinson, having heard it currently reported in Jerusalem that Siloam was united by a subterranean passage to the Fountain of the Virgin, determined to explore it. Entering at the staircase above mentioned, he found the passage cut through the rock, two feet wide, and gradually decreasing from fifteen to three feet in height. At the end of 800 feet it became so low that he could advance no farther without 'crawling on all fours.' Here he turned back; but coming better prepared for an aquatic back; but coming better prepared to back; but coming better prepared to back the control of the Virgin. Here the difficulties proved still greater. 'Most of the way we could indeed advance upon hands and knees; yet in several places we could only get forward by lying at full length and dragging ourselves along upon our elbows.' This shows the nature of the passage, and the immense labour the excavation must have cost. He succeeded at length in working his way through. channel winds and zigzags, in the very heart of the rock, so much that, while the direct distance is only 1100 feet, the passage measured 1750. The discovery of this remarkable conduit explains at once why Siloam has been also regarded as a at once why shoam has been also regarded as a remitting f untain. Jerome appears to be the first who noticed this peculiarity; he is at least the first who records it. He says, 'Siloam is a fountain whose waters do not flow regularly, but on certain days and hours; and issue with a great noise from caverns in the rock.'

"No fountain about Jerusalem has obtained such a wide celebrity as Siloah, and yet it is only three times mentioned in Scripture. Isaiah speaks of 'the waters of Shiloah that flow softly' (vii. 6); Nehemiah says Shallum built 'the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden' (iii. 15)—perhaps referring to the embankment of the large reservoir above referred to; and our Saviour commanded the blind man, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam. . . . He went his way, therefore, and washed, and came seeing.' (John ix. 7.) These notices, however interesting, would leave us in doubt as to the position and identity of the fountain; but Josephus is explicit on this point, when he says that the Tyropeon extended down to Siloam. Isaiah probably refers to Siloah under the name of the Old Pool when he says, 'Ye made also a ditch between the two walls for the water of the old pool.' This ditch may be the large reservoir at the mouth of the Tyropeon, constructed to retain the surplus waters of Siloah. (Isaiah xxii. 11. Comp. Jer. xxxix. 4, and lii. 7; and Neh. iii. 15.)"

This passage will, perhaps, serve to show that the very high degree of literary merit which we have assigned to the book is far from being unwarranted. Let us turn for a moment to the very useful "Preliminary Remarks," which give information more or less valuable to every traveller on modes of travel, requisites for the road, arms, robbers, medicines, language, dress, conduct, passports, custom-houses, money, &c.; besides treating on topics, which will be mentioned below, more directly interesting to the scientific man and the scholar.

With regard to dress, Mr. Murray's "Handbook" gives the very best and most sensible advice. Laborde and his party all dressed like Bedouins—a woollen cloak, striped with brown: a red-tanned sheep-skin: a linen shirt fastened round the waist by a leathern or woollen band; and the kefieh (kufiyeh, Murray), or striped yellow and red handkerchief, fastened round the head by a cord of camel's hair dyed black,—this constituted their pleasing costume. Indeed, five-and-twenty years back, it seems to have been the received canon with travellers, that you must either make a kind of

royal progress, impressing the weak minds of the "natives" by a display of very extensive splendour, or you must do precisely as the natives do. If you were for learning the every-day manners and domestic life of the inhabitants, then, like Burckhardt, you should adopt the dress of an Arab of the lowest class, drive a donkey before you, and cheerfully join the little caravans which have formed pathways in the desert from tribe to tribe. While the traveller who had other objects in view, who was great in the hammer, quadrant, or theodolite, and had any designs whatever connected with astronomy, geology, architecture, and general archeology, that man was to have his dromedaries, his own special caravan, and his brilliant suite of attendants.

Now hear Mr. Murray's Handbook, clear, practical, and complete:

"Dress.-In selecting a suitable dress for Syria the mode of locomotion should be first considered. The saddle is the only conveyance; a comfortable riding-dress is therefore the best for ordinary wear. Every English gentleman knows that 'tights' of strong cord, or close-fitting pantaloons of heavy tweed, with long boots drawn over them, enable one to bear rough rides with far more ease. Perhaps, if the parts next the saddle were covered with soft leather, like those of the Horse Guards, they would be still more comfortable and more -an important consideration in a long tour. The coat ought to be short, and made of substantial light-coloured tweed or shepherd's It is a great mistake to wear linen, or any other thin material. The body is thus exposed to the direct rays of the sun; the skin becomes dry, perspiration is checked, and fever or diarrhoa is the result. Woollen cloth is a non-conductor, and when we are protected by it the sun's rays fall harmless. The best hat is the broad-brimmed white or drab 'felt.' The crown may be thickly padded internally with cotton, and five or six folds of white muslin or calico may be advan-tageously wound round the exterior. Lightness rageously wound round the exterior. Laguness and protection from the sun are the grand requisites. A pair of drab leather gloves, and wire 'goggles' with fronts of green glass, will complete the costume. Many throw over the whole a white Arab barnûs of very thin material, and this affords additional protection against both

heat and dust.
"To adopt the native costume when one is not "To adopt the native costume when one is not only ignorant of the language, but unable to conform to the mode of salutation, sitting, walking, and riding of the people, is just an effectual way of rendering oneself ridiculous. It affords an excuse, too, for liberties and remarks which most people will wish to avoid. A calm and dignified bearing, with a neat simple style of dress, always commands respect in Syria with every class. But any attempt at semi-Bedawy, Grand Turk, or fancy-ball extravagances, will not fail to excite a smile among the sober Orientals; or, what is worse, it may occasion grievous mistakes as to nationality. In the cities of Syria, as in those of Europe, the plain dress of an English gentleman nationality. In the cities of Syria, as in those of Europe, the plain dress of an English gentleman is by far the best for all visits of ceremony, whether made to native dignitaries or to British residents."

The only precaution requisite is to be provided with a pair of goloshes, or any kind of vicarious overshoe, which will do to be "put off" as soon as one approaches the "holy ground" of a rich Mahomedan's dais. Allah forbid that his well-born forehead and lips should come into contact five times a day with the print of our unbelieving Wel-

Having now given the reader a fair speci-men of the calibre of these volumes, as well as of their practical utility, we shall proceed to a more detailed account of their design, confining the present notice entirely to the Preliminary Information, which, as we have

seen, is of considerable bulk; and reserving for a future occasion the whole of the routes, whether those contained in the Peninsula of Sinai and Southern Palestine, which are enumerated in Part I., or those of Northern Palestine and Northern Syria, which form the subject of Part II.

To begin with the very spirit and essence of the whole undertaking: the author has been possessed with the belief that the Bible is the best handbook for Palestine, and has laboured to prepare the most efficient com-panion to it. Without exhausting the sub-ject in any given locality, he has aimed at giving a more complete summary of the scriptural and historical geography of Syria and Palestine than has been given by any other work in the English language. And the has actually done so. The work of Canon Stanley, with all its graphic beauty, all its uncommon power of grouping historical figures on geographical canvas, is brief and incomplete besides being accompanies. incomplete, besides being open to more than one graver objection, unnecessary to be here discussed. And if the heart of the student sinks within him on contemplating Ritter's "Erdkunde" when safe within the four walls of his study, the thought of those five thick tomes would be doubly formidable when he is arrayed in complete travelling order, and just on the point of a start with the "tights of strong cord, the broad-brimmed white or drab felt hat, the drab gloves, and the wire goggles." While, on the other hand, without needlessly thrusting a modest manual into downright competition with works which have become, or are becoming classic, we may assert with confidence that a tourist who goes over the ground with Murray will be himself a tolerable Palestine scholar by the time he comes back, and will meantime have been using a book, the bulk of which is not enough to make any perceptible difference even in the saddle.

The preliminary remarks occupy about sixty pages in a volume of three hundred and fifty. They are divided into twelve sections, each a useful and interesting trea-tise by itself. The first contains a summary of the general geography, describing the mountains, rivers, and the Great Central Valley which begins at Antioch and runs to the Dead Sea, intersecting the country from north to south, and having a total length of 300 miles, for more than 140 of which it is below the level of the sea. The author speaks out boldly in this section of the elements of greatness and prosperity, both in the soil and the people, now waiting to be developed in Syria; and appeals to the government expedition of the Americans, which with bad management and an inefficient chief has still explored the Jordan, and surveyed the Dead Sea; not omitting to hold up, likewise for English emulation, the individual enterprise of Dr. Robinson, who has spent the best of his days in settling the historical geography of Palestine. There is besides this a statistical table of popula-tion for the three Pashalics, Damascus, Aleppo, and Sidon. There are in the three taken together 1,920,800 souls, of whom 1,296,000 are Moslems, and 441,100 are Christians of various kinds, Maronites, Greeks, Catholics, Armenians, and lesser

The second section is occupied by an historical sketch of great merit, extending from "Aram the son of Shem," down to the armed intervention of England in 1841, and the consequent restoration of Syria to the Porte. Ritter, Reland, Robinson, Stanley,

Gibbon, Abulfeda, and D'Herbelot (grouped of course at random) are among the references in these two sections. But the author has gone further out of his way than to the "Annales Moslemici" or the "Bibliothèque Orientale," in order to put his readers in the best and truest way of gaining, if they choose, the fullest information. "Almost converting choose, the reader in the converting choose the reader in the Commendation of the converting choice in the Commendation." everything about the Crusades may be gathered from the 'Gesta Dei per Francos' by such as have the courage to go through 1500 pages folio of barbarous Latin. And the best modern history of the Crusades is Wilken's 'Geschichte der Kreuzzüge.'" And so, in these unassuming volumes, we have not only a guide to our foreign travels, but a good and intelligible catalogue of reference to our libraries at home.

The third section furnishes us with a chrorine that a section infrinsies as what a cure no logical table, based on Usher, and extending from B.C. 2224 to A.D. 1841; in other words, from Aram to the "armed intervention;" and the fourth, which is the longest and most interesting of all, tells you all you have about the horey about the might in reason wish to know about the inhabitants. Sadly disreputable lot as they are, there is nothing for it but to consider them in the light of "religious sects." It is even so. This is the only country in the world where people will lie systematically for the pure sake of lying; and yet it is "religion" that has made most of the real distinctions which exist among them. There are a few minor things exempt from the allpervading influence; the mountaineer, for instance, has bag-trowsers of immense capacity quâ mountaineer, and not quâ Druze or Ismailiyeh; and the city gentleman struts in flowing robes and yellow slippers solely on account of his being a metropolitan swell, But religion (so-called) has to answer for this: that, if you say "Peace be to you," to a Moslem, in common civility, he feels inclined to spit upon you or trample you under his feet, and is sure to save his dignity by a muttered curse upon the infidel dog who has dared to make use of the salutation monopolised exclusively by the "faithful." And for this: that the most "faithful." And for this: that the most holy descendants of the Prophet's son-inlaw, one Aly, will starve rather than eat or drink with those of another faith, and will quietly smash a vessel which a traveller, unclean beast, has unwittingly put to his lips. Tantum religio potuit suadere malorum. There is something intensely ludicrous in the contrast between an Arab's professions, "Give whatever you please, my lord," "Take ("Give whatever you please, my lord," "Take it without money,") and his keen-handed practice, leaving his provisions behind, and begging for yours, substituting a rickety "nondescript" for a smart saddle, or a broken-down jade of a camel for an agile dromedary. But the crowning absurdity, which has been painted to perfection in "Eöthen," is the self-satisfied air with which her will acquisese in detection the consciousthey will acquiesce in detection, the consciousness of having fought a very creditable fight, the no-disgrace of being beaten by so skilful an antagonist as yourself.

The fifth and sixth sections explain the varieties of the climate, and the best seasons for visiting Palestine. Don't go in the winter. It is unpleasant and not romantic to pitch your tent in slush and spread your bed in mud. Avoid the summer. "The heaven in mud. Avoid the summer. "The heaven becomes brass: and the earth iron." The cemeteries of Beyrout, Damascus, and Jerusalem contain the bones of not a few summer-tourists. Autumn and spring remain, that is to say, five months of the Syrian twelve. Autumn is good; the air is by F once han the and root the. posi as it pens pict W wee

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balmy, the weather more uniformly fine than in spring, and it is the season of the grapes of Lebanon and Eshcol. But spring is better, when all nature is in bloom, and you are perhaps more than usually buoyant, having just escaped from the monotonous winter on the Nile. Leave Cairo, then, early in February; and "forty days in the desert" will land you in Jerusalem by the middle of March—the very best of all times for exploring the Jordan valley, the Dead Sea, and the plains of once formidable Phiistia. You will be ready to set out northward early in April, and may thus finish a profitable journey at Beyrout about the 20th of May.

The last six sections are emphatically roadchapters. Everything, without any excep-tion, that the most "shiftless" traveller can by possibility want to know, or had better be put up to, is set down here. And this is at once the glory and the shame (but how much more the former) of a complete and thorough handbook. You get bound up in one and the same volume reflections upon Jerusalem and Bethany, and hints about your arrowroot and dried tongue. Nobody will deny the little awkwardness involved in the juxtaposition; but every one will remember that, as it exists in the reality, it must not be dispensed with in the careful and trustworthy

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ed en We will conclude this notice, hoping next week to follow Mr. Murray in some of his Tours, by stringing together a few of his most valuable practical hints, all of which are to be found in the six chapters just mentioned. Of Dress we have already spoken. With regard to your provisions, the Dragoman supplies all necessaries at so much per diem. The average rate for last year (1856-7) was 1l. 5s. a head—some paid more. This includes everything—animals, servants, guards, and bakshish, after all its kinds. Wine, beer, &c., should be exacted from the dragoman to a fair extent; though here extras will naturally appear. Take biscuits in air-tight tims. Let portable soup and preserved meat, with a dash of ham and dried tongue, relieve your bad mutton and skinny fowls. A small "Dean and Adams" is not a bad travelling-companion; and let it be seen when you start on a solitary ride. Mr. Murray sets his face against the too free use of the Turkish bath. It seems to bring on a plague of boils; and whoever would know of a first-rate treatment for boils should consult the "Remarks," p. liv. The fullest directions are given about the management and payment of servants and dragomans; and it would seem that there was good need; for in all Mr. Murray's experience he has found but one dragoman experence he has found but one dragoman that deserved a character, and that was Aly Abu Halâwy, who may be heard of at the Cairo Consulate, and who travelled for more than a year with Cyril C. Graham, Esq., besides attending the author of the "Handbook" for forty days in the spring of last year.

thirty years ago, but it was never read or circulated to any extent. It fell still-born from the press, and the present issue is practically its first publication, so far as the majority of readers are concerned. It has now some chance of being read, and is on the whole well worth reading, not so much on account of what Lord King has himself contributed in the shape of biography, but for the sake of the interesting and hitherto unpublished fragments from Locke's own hand. The letters and notes of travel which the volume contains throw great light on Locke's early life and character, but the connecting narrative is so meagre as to be almost worthless. The title "Life and Letters" is indeed a misnomer. No biography of Locke existed when Lord King undertook the work, and his volume leaves the deficiency proposed. his volume leaves the deficiency unsupplied. He has not added, so far as we remember, a single fact of any importance to the few particulars of Locke's life given in the best biographical dictionaries, both English and foreign. This is much to be regretted, as the noble writer possessed peculiar sources of information, which a little diligence and research might surely have turned to good account. As a relative of the great English philosopher, inheriting his papers and manuscripts, and having free access to all family documents, Lord King might certainly have given us some satisfactory account of his birth and parentage. This, however, is dismissed in two sentences, which give neither the month of his birth nor the county in which his father lived. Such incuriousness with regard to the history of the great thinker and patriot, to whom more than any other we owe the establishment of our civil and religious freedom, is not, however, peculiar to his noble connexions. Everywhere the same carelessness is apparent in relation even to facts that might be easily ascertained. Numbers, for example, must have visited the place of Locke's birth. Hannah More resided there during the greater part of her life, and Lady Wortley Montagu erected a monument to the philosopher's memory in the grounds of Barley Wood. But none of the many visitors seem to have had pious thought or biographical instinct enough to collect and preserve the authentic traditions of Locke's birth, which even at this distance of time still linger in that

secluded spot.

All Locke's biographers state correctly enough that he was born at Wrington, in Somersetshire, but none of them mention the circumstances of that event, or seem to be in the least aware that he first saw the light in that quiet, old-fashioned village rather by accident than design. None of his relatives belonged to Wrington, his father never lived there, nor was his mother resid-ing there at the time of his birth. She was then on a visit to a family in the neighbourhood, and, the future philosopher not being expected immediately, had gone to church with her friends as usual on the Sunday morning of his birth, which was, we believe, August |29th, 1632. Mrs. Locke, however, was not able to remain till the end of the service; nor—such was the urgency of the case—could she be removed to her friend's house, which was at some little distance. She was taken at once to the nearest cottage, one indeed close to the churchyard, the end wall forming part of the churchyard fence, and the old fashioned gable looking out directly upon the grey tower and the quiet graves. Here, in a

low-roofed but substantial upper chamber, with rudely carved oak beams and small mullioned windows, Locke was born, and here mother and child remained for a few days till they could be safely removed to more roomy and comfortable quarters. From these facts, if authentic, it would appear that Locke's birth was premature, and if so, this may in part account for the weak constitution and poor health which throughout life prevented him from engaging in the active duties of any profession or undertaking any laborious public work. And there is really no valid reason for doubting this account. It was detailed to us about six years ago by an old womanby courtesy, an old lady—who then lived, as she probably still does, in the cottage where the philosopher was born. There is no doubt at all about the house having been his actual birth-place; that has been sufficiently preserved by unbroken local tradition, and a stone in the gable-end commemorating the fact. There is moreover a satisfactory amount of internal evidence in support of it. The building easily authenticates itself as upwards of two hundred years old, having all the marks of a small yeoman's or substantial cottager's dwelling of about that date. The account of the birth, too, quite natural and credible in itself, explains some points which are otherwise sufficiently obscure. In the first place, how Locke came to be born at Wrington, at a distance from his father's house; in the second, why he was born in such a comparatively humble dwelling, when his parents and friends belonged to the rank of country gentry, and were people of some family and fortune. Local family traditions, too, in the rural parts of Somersetshire are peculiarly reliable, on account of the few changes that have taken place in the Farm labourers, even, often have a long pedigree, and live on the very spot, sometimes in the very house where their ancestimes in the very house where their ancestimes. tors had dwelt for many generations. The old woman at Wrington intimated that the house had been in her family ever since the time of Locke's birth. She took a not unnatural pride in the circumstance which made her house so celebrated, but her notions of the philosopher's precise claims to distinction were rather hazy-"The gurt Mr. Locke, a writer of books, pr'aps you may a yee-ard on 'im Zur." There are no a yee-ard on 'im Zur." doubt family documents still in existence which would amply confirm and illustrate the local tradition of Locke's birth, and supply what is wanting in the old woman's version of the story. A good biography of Locke is sadly wanted, but no one has ever yet seriously attempted to investigate and turn to account the valuable materials that exist for the production of such a work.

Part of these materials are given in the volume before us. They consist chiefly of letters written by Locke to friends at home from Germany, during his first visit to the continent as secretary to Sir Walter Vane in 1664; and of extracts from a journal he kept while on a tour through France for his health ten years later. Besides these letters and extracts connected with foreign travel there are a number of notes and papers relating to his friends and studies at home, among others a curious correspondence between himself and Sir Isaac Newton, in which the great natural philosopher does not appear to much advantage. The most interesting parts of the volume are, however, decidedly the letters from Germany, and the

The Life and Letters of John Locke, with Extracts from his Journals and Commonplace Books. By Lord King. New Edition, with General Index. (Bohn's "Standard Library.")

This volume is a valuable addition to the "Standard Library." Though in reality a republication, it will be new to most readers. Lord King's heavy quarto it is true was printed and published in the regular way

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journal written in France. The former are of peculiar interest just now, as they give us a picture by an observant, keen-sighted Englishman, of the state of affairs at the Court of Berlin, when Frederick William, the great Elector, was in his glory. Our only wonder is, that Mr. Carlyle in his account of this celebrated Kurfürst, who is evidently a favourite of his, has not availed himself of information so authentic, vivid, and minute. Locke gives a most graphic and interesting account of all he saw and heard; just the sort of description that Mr. Carlyle would like, that he would know well how to value, and turn to good account. Locke's official position during this visit to Germany as secretary to the embassy sent by Charles II. to the Elector of Brandenburg during the first Dutch war, gave him the best opportunity of observing the politics and character of the Elector's household. These opportunities he turned to good use; and his letters illustrate not only the ongoings of the German Court, but his own character, the keenness of his observation, and the playfulness of his wit. The wit is sometimes a little laboured, perhaps, and—in harmony with the intellectual bias of his nature-inclines more to satire than humour, but is on the whole very pleasant, genial, We will give an illustration and amusing. We will give an illustration or two, not from his views of court politics, but from his observations on the manners and customs of the people. Being Christ-mas-time, he thinks he would like to see how the Catholics celebrate the season:

"Are you at leisure for half-an-hour's trouble? Will you be content I should keep up the custom of writing long letters with little in them? "Tis a barren place, and the dull frozen part of the year, and therefore you must not expect great matters. "Tis enough that at Christmas you have empty Christmas tales fit for the chimney-corner. To begin, therefore, December 15th (here 25th), Christmas-day, about one in the morning, I went a gossipping to our Lady; think me not profane, for the name is a great deal modester than the service I was at. I shall not describe all the particulars I observed in that church, being the principal of the Catholics in Cleves; but only those that were particular to the occasion. Near the high altar was a little altar for this day's solemnity; the scene was a stable, wherein was an ox, an ass, a cradle, the Virgin, the babe, Joseph, shepherds, and angels, dramatis persona: had they but given them motion, it had been a perfect puppet-play, and might have deserved pence a-piece; for they were of the same size and make that our English puppets are; and I am confident, these shepherds and this Joseph are kin to that Judith and Holophernes which I have seen at Bartholomew fair. A little without the stable was a flock of sheep, cut out of cards; and these, as they then stood without their shepherds, appeared to me the best emblem I had seen a long time, and methought represented these poor innnocent people, who, whilst their shepherds pretend so much to follow Christ, and pay their devotion to him, are left unregarded in the barren wilderness.

"This was the show: the music to it was all vocal in the quire adjoining, but such as I never heard. They had strong voices, but so ill-tuned, so ill-managed, that it was their misfortune, as well as ours, that they could be heard. He that could not, though he had a cold, make better music with a chevy chace over a pot of smooth ale, deserved well to pay the reekoning, and go away athirst. However, I think they were the housestest singing men I have ever seen, for they endeavoured to deserve their money, and earned it certainly with pains enough; for what they wanted in skill they made up in loudness and variety: every one had his own tune, and the result of all was like the noise of choosing Par-

liament-men, where every one endeavours to cry loudest.

"Besides the men, there were a company of little choristers: I thought when I saw them at first, they had danced to the others' music, and that it had been your Gray's Inn revels; for they were jumping up and down, about a good charcoal fire that was in the middle of the quire (this, their devotion, and their singing was enough, I think, to keep them warm, though it were a very cold night); but it was not dancing, but singing they served for; when it came to their turns, away they ran to their places, and there they made as good harmony as a concert of little pigs would, and they were much about as cleanly. Their part being done, out they sallied again to the fire, where they played till their cue called them, and then back to their places they huddled."

From the Catholics he passes to the Pro-

"But to leave the good-natured Catholics, and to give you a little account of our bretheren the Calvinists, that differ very little from our English Presbyterians. I met lately, accidentally, with a young sucking divine, that thought himself no small champion; who, as if he had been some knight-errant, bound by oath to bid battle to all comers, first accested me in courteous voice; but the customary salute being over, I found myself assaulted most furiously, and heavy loads of arguments fell upon me. I, that expected no such thing, was fain to guard myself under the trusty broad shield of ignorance, and only now and then returned a blow by way of inquiry: and by this Parthian way of flying, defended myself till passion and want of breath had made him weary, and so we came to an accommodation; though, had he had lungs enough, and I no other use of my ears, the combat might have lasted (if that may be called a combat, ubit ucades ego vapulo tantum) as long as the wars of Troy, and the end of all had been like that, nothing but some rubbish of divinity as useless and incoherent as the ruins the Greeks left behind them.

"This was a probationer in theology, and, I believe (to keep still to my errantry), they are bound to show their prowess with some valiant unknown, before they can be dubbed, and receive the dignity of the order. I cannot imagine why else he should set upon me, a poor innocent wight, who thought nothing of a combat, and desired to be peaceable, and was too far from my own dunghill to be quarrelling; but it is no matter, there were no wounds made but in Priscian's head, who suffers much in this country. This provocation I have sufficiently revenged upon one of their church, our landlord, who is wont sometimes to Germanise and to be a little too much of the creature. These frailties I threaten him to discover to his pastor, who will be sure to rebuke him (but sparing his name) the next Sunday from the pulpit, and severely chastise the liberty of his cups; thus I sew up the good man's mouth, because the other gaped too much, and made him as much bear mytongue as I was punished with the other's. But for all this, he will sometimes drink himself into a defiance of divines and discipline, and hearken only to Bacchus's inspirations."

His account of the native manufactures is more amusing still:—

"You must not expect anything remarkable from me all the following week, for I have spent it in getting a pair of gloves, and think too I have had a quick despatch. You will perhaps wonder at it, and think I talk like a traveller, but I will give you the particulars of the business. Three days were spent in finding out a glover, for though I can walk all the town over in less than an hour, yet their shops are so contrived as if they were designed to conceal, not expose their wares; and though you may think it strange, yet methinks it is very well done, and 'tis a becoming modesty to conceal that which they have reason enough to be ashamed of.

"But to proceed: the two next days were spent in drawing them on, the right-hand glove

(or, as they call them here, hand shoe), Thursday, and the left hand, Friday, and I'll promise you this was two good days' work, and little enough to bring them to fit my hands and to consent to be fellows, which, after all, they are so far from that when they are on I am always afraid my hands should go to cuffs one with another, they so disagree: Saturday we concluded on the price, computed, and changed our money, for it requires a great deal of arithmetic and a great deal of brass to pay twenty-eight stivers and seven doits; but, God be thanked, they are all well fitted with counters for reckoning; for their money is good for nothing else, and I am poor here with my pockets full of it. I wondered at first why the market people brought their wares in little carts drawn by one horse, till I found it necessary to carry home the price of them; for a horse-load of turnips would be two horse-load of money.

"A pair of shoes cannot be got under half a year. I lately saw the cow killed, out of whose hide I hope to have my next pair. The first thing after they are married here is to bespeak the child's coat, and truly the bridegroom must be a bungler that gets not the child before the mantle be made; for it is far easier here to have a man made than a suit. To be serious with you, they are the slowest people, and fullest of delays, that ever I have met with, and their money as bad."

In addition to social sketches the letters contain individual portraits, rather strained and elaborate perhaps, but which are all the more amusing from the very formality of the fun. The following account of one of the commonest ills to which lettered humanity is heir, may be taken as a speci-

men:-

"The old opinion, that every man had his particular genius that ruled and directed his course of life, hath made me sometimes laugh to think what a pleasant thing it would be if we could see little sprites bestride men (as plainly as I see here women bestride horses), ride them about, and spur them on in that way which they ignorantly think they choose themselves. And would you not smile to observe that they make use of us as we do of our palfreys, to trot up and down for their pleasure and not our own?

"To what purpose this from Cleves? I will tell you: if there be any such thing (as I cannot vouch the contrary), certainly mine is an academic goblin. When I left Oxford, I thought for a while to take leave of all University affairs, and should have least expected to have found anything of that nature here at Cleves of any part of the world. But do what I can, I am still kept in that tract. I no sooner was got here, but I was welcomed with a divinity disputation, which I gave you an account of in my last; I was no sooner rid of that, but I found myself up to the ears in poetry, and overwhelmed in Helicon. I had almost or 'rather have been soused in the Reyne, as frozen as it was, for it could not have been more cold and intolerable than the poetry I met with. The remembrance of it puts me in a chill sweat, and were it not that I am obliged to recount all particulars, being under the laws of an historian, I should find it very difficult to recall to mind this part of my story; but having armed myself with a good piece of bag pudding, which bears a mighty antipathy to poetry, and having added thereto half-a-dozen glasses of daring wine, I thus proceed:—

"My invisible master, therefore, having mounted me, rode me out to a place, where I must needs meet a learned bard in a threadbare coat, and a hat, that though in its younger days it had been black, yet it was grown grey with the labour of its master's brains, and his hard study or time had changed the colour of that as well as its master's hair. His breeches had the marks of antiquity upon them, were born, I believe, in the heroic times, and retained still the gallantry of that age, and had an antipathy to base pelf. Stockings I know not whether he had any, but I am sure his two shoes had but one heel, which made his own foot go as uneven as those of his

verses. He was so poor, that he had not so much as a rich face, nor the promise of a car-buncle in it, so that I must needs say that his outside was poet enough.

"After a little discourse, wherein he sprinkled some bays on our British Druid Owen, out he drew from under his coat a folio of verses; and that you may be sure they were excellent, I must tell you that they were acrostics upon the name and titles of the Elector of Brandenburg. I could not escape reading of them: when I had done, I endeavoured to play the poet a little in commend-ing them, but in that he outdid me clearly, praised faster than I could, preferred them to Lucan and Virgil, showed me where his muse flew high, squeezed out all the verjuice of all his conceits, and there was not a secret conundrum which he laid not open to me; and in that little talk I had with him afterwards, he quoted his own verses a dozen times, and gloried in his works. The poem was designed as a present to the Elector, but I being Owen's countryman had the honour to see them before the Elector, which he made me understand was a singular courtesy, though I be-lieve one hundred others had been equally favoured.

"I told him the Elector must needs give him a considerable reward; he seemed angry at the mention of it, and told me he had only a design to show his affection and parts, and spoke as if he thought himself fitter to give than to receive anything from the Elector, and that he was the greater person of the two; and indeed, what need had he of any gift, who had all Tagus and Pactolus in his possession? could make himself a Tempe when he pleased, and create as many Elysums as he had a mind to. I applauded his generosity and great mind, thanked him for the favour he had done me, and at last got out of his

We must conclude our extracts from these letters by a passage or two illustrating the state of Brandenburg civilisation tested at the central point—that of eating and drink-ing. First for the courtiers:—

"This day our public entertainment upon the Elector's account ended, much to my satisfaction; for I had no great pleasure in a feast where, amidst a great deal of meat and company, I had little to eat, and less to say. The advantage was, the lusty Germans fed so heartily themselves, that they regarded not much my idleness; and I might have enjoyed a perfect quiet, and slept out the meal, had not a glass of wine now and then jogged me; and indeed therein lay the care of their entertainment, and the sincerity too, for the wine was such as might be known, and was not ashamed of itself. But for their meats, they were all so disguised, that I should have guessed they had er designed a mass than a meal, and had a mind rather to pose than feed us. But the cook made their metamorphosis like Ovid's, where the change is usually into the worse.

"I had, however, courage to venture upon things unknown; and I could not often tell whether I ate flesh or fish, or good red herring, so much did they dissemble themselves; only now and then, a dish of good honest fresh-water fish came in, so far from all manner of deceit or cheat, as they hid not so much as their tails in a draw of heat, as water was those any source near to drop of butter; nor was there any sauce near to disguise them. disguise them. What think you of a hen and cabbage? or a piece of powdered beef covered over with preserved quinces? These are no miracles here. One thing there is that I like very well, which is, that they have good salads all the year, and use them frequently. It is true, the Elector gave his victuals, but the officers that attended us valued their services, and one of them had ready in his pocket a list of those that expected rewards, at such a rate that the attendance cost more than the meat was worth."

Now for the soldiers :-

"I had formerly seen the size and arms of the Duke's guards, but to-day I had a sample of their stomachs (I mean to eat, not to fight); for if they be able to do as much that way too, no question

but under their guard the Duke is as much in safety as I believe his victuals are in danger.

"But to make you the better understand my story, and the decorum which made me take notice of it, I must first describe the place to you. The place where the Elector commonly eats is a large room, into which you enter at the lower end by an ascent of some few steps; just without this a lobby: as this evening I was passing through it into the court, I saw a company of soldiers very close together, and a steam rising from the midst of them. I, as strangers used to be, being a little curious, drew near to these men of mettle, where I found three or four earthen fortifications, wherein I found three or four earthen fortifications, wherein were intrenched peas-porridge, and stewed turnips or apples, most valiantly stormed by those men of war: they stood just opposite to the Duke's table, and within view of it; and had the Duke been there at supper, as it was very near his supper time, I should have thought they had been of these to provide his expertite by experted. set there to provoke his appetite by example, and serve as the cocks have done in some countries before battle, to fight the soldiers into courage, and certainly these soldiers might eat others into stomachs. Here you might have seen the court and camp drawn near together, there a supper preparing with great ceremony, and just by it a hearty meal made without stool, trencher, tablecloth, or napkins, and for aught I could see, without beer, bread, or salt; but I stayed not long, for methought 't was a dangerous place, and so I left them in the engagement.

Mr. Carlyle must have forgotten the fact, that such an Englishman as Locke saw and reported these things, or he would certainly have referred to it, and given some account of this strange military mess in his

picture of the great Elector's court.

The journal kept by Locke during his residence in France, while equally minute and graphic in its pictures, is chiefly occupied with the social condition of the people, especially in the rural districts, which was evidently at that time miserable enough. His accounts seem in every case to be the result of personal observation and inquiry, and this gives them peculiar interest.
Wherever he came he evidently made diligent inquiries into the condition and occupations of the people, the burdens laid upon them in the way of rent and taxes, the local administration of justice, the influence of the church,—everything, in fact, connected with their social and political state. From the first, the practical bent of his mind and his analytical power are sufficiently apparent. Already he is the philosopher of observation and experience, selecting human nature and human society as the objects of his analysis. As illustrations of the course of inquiry and reflection, through which Locke prepared himself for his great works on mental and political science, as well as of the way in which these arose and gradually matured themselves in his mind, the letters and papers in Lord King's volume are extremely interesting, indispensable, indeed, to all who would understand the philosopher of the Restoration. not simply as a thinker, but as a patriot, a citizen, and a man.

Liber Famelicus of Sir James Whitelocke, a Judge of the Court of King's Bench, in the reign of James I. and Charles I. Now first published from the original MSS. Edited by John Bruce, Esq., V.P.S.A. (Printed for the Camden Society.)

THE author of the curious little volume now first given to the public was the father of that Bulstrode Whitelocke, whose Journal of his Swedish Embassy was edited three years ago by Mr. Reeve: whose "Historical" He devotes a disproportionate number of

Memorials" are also well known to all the students of that period: who became one of the chief Parliamentary leaders in the struggle between Charles and the Commons; and has more than once elicited the praise of the historian Hume for his candour and impartiality. Sir James himself was the fourth son of Richard Whitelocke, merchant, and was born the same year in which his father died, 1570. He was educated at father died, 1570. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' school, then, as now, he tells us, famous for its cultivation of Hebrew; then went up to St. John's College, where he obtained a law fellowship, and was called to the bar in the year 1600. The Whitelockes were a good old English family, which had held land in Berkshire from 1231, but they produced nobody of any great note previous to the birth of Sir James. His mother's family, the Coltes, do not seem to have been much above the rank of substantial yeomen; and though Sir James himself was doubtless a man of good solid ability, we shall probably not be far wrong in attributing his rise in life, as well as the talents of his son, to the distinguished family and connections of his wife, Miss Bulstrode. Her mother was one of the Crokes of Studley in Oxfordshire, and the pride which Sir James took in this alliance is abundantly evinced by the numerous entries in his journal relating to them. The original name of this family was Le Blount, which claimed to represent the senior branch of the House of Blondi in Italy. But they took the name of Croke in the reign of Henry IV. to escape the consequences of a conspiracy. A descendant of the Nicholas Le Blount who adopted this precaution was a master in Chancery in 1522, bought the estate of Chilton in Buckinghamshire, and afterwards, on the dissolution of the monasteries, became the purchaser of the neighbouring estates of Studley Priory in Oxfordshire. The son of this John Croke was one of the six clerks, and married Elizabeth Unton, of an extremely ancient and honourable family, connected by blood with the Royal House of Portugal. Their son, John, was the famous Sir John Croke of Chilton, Speaker of the House of Commons in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a justice of the Misch Royal under her successions. King's Bench under her successor - and celebrated as a lawyer of great learning and sagacity. His son, Sir John, sold the estate of Studley to his uncle George, and his grandson, who raised a troop of horse for the king in the civil war, completed the ruin of the senior branch by selling the lands of Chil-ton to a Mr. Harvey of London. The im-portance of the family was now therefore sustained by Mr. George Croke aforesaid and his descendants. George, afterwards and his descendants. George, afterwards Sir George, uncle of Sir James's wife and repeatedly alluded to in this volume, also became a justice of the King's Bench, and in company with Sir Richard Hutton dis-tinguished himself by giving judgment for Hampden in the ship-money case. Among his descendants were an Alexander Croke, an intimate friend of the poet Creech, and the late Sir Alexander Croke (ob. 1842), who enjoyed a considerable legal and literary reputation in his day. Studley Priory, a picturesque old house, together with the estates about nine miles from Oxford, are still in possession of the family, the present representative of which is lineally descended in the male line from Nicholas Le Blount.

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pages to the history of his relations and connections. But for our own part we have no quarrel to pick with him on this score, as we rather enjoy such occasional glimpses into the history of the old English gentry. But to many readers the great attraction of the book will consist in the minute portraiture of manners which it presents to them, and a quaint simplicity of style not un-frequently reminding us of our old friend

Pepys.
Sir James's marriage took place in the month of September, 1602, the bride being twenty-seven and the bridegroom thirty-two at the time. He had, he tells us, 500l, ready money with his wife, who was moreover well furnished with clothes and jewels. And according to the custom of the time he had his "bord" gratis for a year and a-half at the house of his father-in-law. So we find when his own daughter married one of the Mostyns of Wales, he engaged to find the young couple "entertainment" for a year. young couple "entertainment

The next memorable event of his life was a quarrel with Sir William Pope, of Wroxton, about felling timber, in which the lawyer naturally got the better of his opponent, and which gives him occasion for the following somewhat malicious account of the origin of

the Pope family :-

"This sir William Pope came to all his land from sir Thomas Pope, elder brother to John his father, whiche sir Thomas dyed without issue, being a man of great possessions, whiche he atteyned unto by his service to Henry VIII. at the suppression and afterward in the Court of Augmentations. Sir Thomas Pope was the sun of a poor and mean man in Deddington, or Desirettee in certific Orea mithium that the suppression of the suppression o or a poor and mean man in Deddington, or Denington, in comit. Oxon. within 4 miles of Banburye and over against Somerton, and was born thear; was brought up from a boy as a skribe and clerk by mr. John Crook, on of the six clerkes when Wolsey was chancelor, and so lived withe mr. Croke until after the suppression. The lord Awdly made a motion to mr. Croke to help him to sum ready and expert clerk to imploy in the king's service about the suppression businesse, and mr. Crooke preferred Thomas Pope unto him, being then his houshold servant in liverye, whiche was the first true step of all his following good fortune. This mr. Croke was my wife's great-grandfather, and I have herd her grandfather sir John Croke often say, that at his christning Tho. Pope, then his father's man, caryed the bason, and sir Thomas Pope by his will gave this sir John Croke sum of his best rayment, as a token of his love unto the house

Hitherto we have seen in Whitelocke nothing more than a shrewd man of the world, with an eye to the main chance. It appears, however, that on occasions of importance he could rise above these considerations. At all events it does not seem what advantage he, as a lawyer dependant on his profession, could have proposed to himself from his opposition to the Court, in the case of impositions. As our readers may, perhaps, remember from our recent review of Mr. Sanford's work, King James imposed a duty of five shillings a hundredweight upon currants, an impost that was resisted by a Turkey merchant named Bates on the ground of illegality. The Court of Exchequer decided in the King's favour, and then the subject came on for discussion in the House of Commons. Sir Francis Bacon spoke in favour of the prerogative, and was answered by Hakewell and Yelverton. All three speeches are reported at length in Cobbett's speeches are reported at length in Cobbett's "State Trials," as well as the judgments of the Judges. Whitelocke it appears only expressed himself briefly and hesitatingly in the House, but afterwards published a

pamphlet on the question, which greatly exasperated the Court party, which was now on the alert for an opportunity of vengeance. It soon presented itself in some fancied transgression connected with a law-suit in the Heralds' Office. Mr. Whitelocke was accordingly committed to the Fleet on the 18th May, 1613. But on the whole the affair seems to have turned out rather to his advantage than otherwise. For having no fancy for martyrdom, at all events in such a trivial cause, he was induced to make his submission to the King, which he did in terms so flattering to James's vanity, that he seems to have stood well with him ever afterwards. What especially propitiated that learned monarch was a skilful quotation from

"Tibi summum rerum imperium Dii dederunt, nobis obedientiæ gloria relicta est."

The matter of the impositions terminated in this wise. The following passage proves how laboriously the opposition had got up

"On Wednesday following, in the morning, myself, mr. Thomas Crew, and others, that wear assigned by the House of Commons to be agents in the conference desired by the Commons withe the Lords, concerning IMPOSITIONS, wear called to the counsell table to Whitehalle, whear having everye on delivered what part he was assigned unto, we wear all commanded to burn our notes, arguments, and collections we had made for the preparing of ourselves to the conference. I broughte myne to the clerke of the counsell, mr. Cottington, the same afternoone, being 24 sides in folio, written withe my owne hand, and saw them burnt.

The partes wear thus assigned ;-

"Sir Henrye Mountague, recorder of London and the king's sergeant, was appointed to shew the cawse whye we desired this conference. This shold have been by itself first, and the conference at another time after.

"Sir Francis Bacon, attorney generall, at the conference was to have made the introduction to the businesse, and to set the state of the

question.

"Sir Edwyn Sandes was to shew that the king's imposing without assent of parliament was contrarve to the naturall fram and constitution of the policye of our kingdom, as that it was a righte of majestye and soveraigne power which the kings of England could not exercise but in parliament, as that of law making, naturalising, ultima provocatio, and the like.

"Mr. Thomas Crew was to shew the reason and judgement of the common law of the land, that whiche is jus privatum or contentiosum to be

the same.

"I was appoynted to begin to shew the practise of the state in the verye poynt, as being the best evidence to shew whether it wear a soveraignty belonging to the king in parliament or out of parliament, and to me was assigned the raignes of Edward II., Edward II., and Edward III., the heat of all the busenesse.

"The time from 50 Edward III. to 3 et 4 Ph. et

Marie, during whiche time thear was not an imposition set on but by assent of parliament, was assigned to Thomas Wentworthe of Lincolnes In, and to John Hoskins of the Middle Temple.

"The time from 3 et 4 Ph. et M. to this present was assigned to Nicholas Hyde of the Middle

"Thear wear appoynted to answere objections mr. Jones, mr. Chibborn, and mr. Hackwell of Lincolnes In.

"Sir Roger Owen was appoynted to shew that no foreyne state could or did set on as the

king of England did.

"Sir Dudley Diggs was appoynted to open the matter of inconvenience to the common profit of the kingdom.

"Sir Samuell Sandes was to conclude the busi-

"The same 8 of June, after we had been withe the lords, thear wear sent to the Tower four parliament men ; sir Walter Chute, mr. Christopher Nevill, yonger sun to the lord Abergavenye, mr. Wentworthe, and mr. Hoskins.

"All the while the lords sate, the king was in

the clerk of counsell's chamber. I saw him look throughe an open place in the hangins, about the bignes of the palm of one hand, all the while the lords wear in withe us."

What an opinion must the nobles and gentlemen of England have entertained of a prince who degraded the sceptre of Eliza. beth by such despicable practices as these!

In various pages up to this point the reader will notice indications of Whitelocke being a much richer man than either his wife's portion or his profits at the bar would have led us to suppose. The first, as we know, was but 500l., and if the jewels were worth as much more, that is probably their outside value. Of the second the learned editor writes as follows:

"Some other minute information which is contained in the MS. I have thought it better to omit; I allude to the sum-totals of his own personal expences, and the profits of his practice, stated quarter by quarter, with minuteness and accuracy, during the whole of his career from 1600, when, as we have stated, he was called to the bar. Such details soon become wearisome, and, being repeated at such frequent intervals, break in upon the little continuity which is to be found in Sir James's narrative; still there are some facts in them which are worth preserving. His practice during his first term produced him 51. 3s. 8d.; during his first year, 39l. 3s. 7d. In 1604, when he married, his practice produced 1881. 6s. 8d., and that year his expenses amounted to 1621. 1s. 11d. In 1605 he first made more than 200*l*. by his practice; in 1607 more than 300*l*.; in 1608 more than 400*l*.; in 1612 more than 500*l*.; his expenses had now mounted to 389*l*. In 1615 his practice first yielded more than 600l., and his expenses amounted to 439%. In 1619, the year of his readership, his professional receipts were 622%, his expenses 985%."

From which it appears that his gross receipts from his profession during the first 19 years did not average much more than 400l. a year. He does not tell us exactly how much he inherited from his mother, but it could only have been a small amount. We must suppose however that it was safely and profitably invested, and that Whitelocke had that natural turn for money making which enables some men to amass a fortune out of nothing. Otherwise it is difficult to account for his pecuniary entries in this volume, or how he should have had sums like 400l. and 500l. and 3000l. to lend out as he did to his acquaintances-all safe men we may be sure. At all events the system prospered so well that in the year 1616 we find Mr. Whitelocke in a position to buy the estate of Fawley, in the counties of Bucks and Oxon:

"It cost me 9000L, of whiche I payd 3000L readye money, and am to pay 6000L, that is to say, 2000L ultimo Nov. 1617, 2000L ultimo Maii, 1618, and 2000L ultimo Nov. 1618. I toke liverye of seasin upon the 5 of December, 1616, of the land in Bukinghamshire, and of the land in Opticalshire, 20 December, 1615. I kent land in Oxfordshire, 20 December, 1616. I kept court for attornament of the tenants upon the feast day of St. Thomas the apostle, 1616."

Whitelocke seems to have taken great delight in this new purchase. And it is pleasant among all the feverish details of business and politics and fortune-pushing to find such entries as the following:

"In summer 1617 my wife and I spent our time at Fawly Court mending and repayring the house, and orchardes and gardens about it." "I had taken for me alive, and sum bred up,

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at Fawley, this latter end of the year 1617, above sixty patriges. I gave a covey of thirteen alive ons to the lord keeper, and another covey of ten to the lord chief justice of the King's Benche, and this was a little before Michaelmas term began."

This stock enabled him to kill 50 brace on his manor the following year, as we learn from another entry:-

"This Mychaelmas term I gave away in pre-sents twelve live partriges to the lord chancelor, twelve to the lord cheef justice, and twelve to the cnancelor of the duchye, at on time, and six at an other, beside those I spent myself, all whiche I toke out of my demeanes at Fawlye, to the number of sixty, and I toke as many thear the last wynter, and yet the grownd as well stored as any in the countrye, by letting go the olde ons for mates." chancelor of the duchye, at on time, and six at an

Mr. Whitelocke here shows himself a connoisseur in the art of game preserving. The decrease of grouse in recent years has been attributed to the fact of sportsmen always being anxious to kill the old birds in order to scatter the pack, so that strong old birds have always been wanting in the breeding Our lawyer pursued the opposite plan, with what results he has told us.
In the winter of 1618-19, Whitelocke stood

for the Recordership of London, which had become vacant in the following curious manner:

"Between Michaelmas and the term dyed my ancient frend sir Anthony Ben, of the Middle Temple, reader and recorder of London, and in his place was elected, by the king's letters, Mr. Richard Martin, of the Middle Temple. He was made recorder by the sollicitation of sir Lyonell Cranfeild, master of the requestes, being tolde it sholde be done for him, but he must be thankful. He consented, but knew not in what manner, and being elected, bestowed sum two or three hundred pound in gratuities, but was afterward made acquaynted that 1500l. was to be payd, whiche was appoynted to be delivered by him to sir Edward Zouche, to help to make payment of 3000l. to sir Thomas Vavasor, whiche he was to have of him for surrendring his place of marshall of the house, into whiche sir Edward was to sucof the house, into whiche sir Edward was to succeed. This money was layd downe by sir Lyonell Cranfeild for mr. Martin, but it lay so heavye at mr. Martin's hart after he knewe of it, that he fell ill and heavye upon it, and toke his chamber and never came forthe untill he was caryed to buryall."

A Mr. Shute of Gray's Inn however steps in between Whitelocke and his prize, "and," says the former, "had in the sickness of Mr. Martin

"Moved the king and procured letters ready for the signature, whiche wanted only date and signing, and so soone as mr. Martin's breathe was out of his bodye had them signed, and sent to the major and aldermen to elect him.

The mayor and aldermen refusing to choose the crown nominee, James proposed a Mr. Heathe, a creature of Buckingham, and rather than bring his friends into discredit with the Court, Whitelocke withdrew his with the Court, Whitelocke withdrew his name. A Mr. Walter, however, attorney-general to the Prince of Wales (a curious circumstance) continued his canvass, and at the last the Court candidate was only returned by a majority of two, there being for Heathe thirteen, for Walter eleven; one of the twenty-five electors present-Sir John Garret—declining to vote at all. White-locke's friends at the bar told him that though he was not recorder he was reminiscor, and that Mr. T. Crewe was memini. The joke has kept so long, that it has almost lost its savour. It was only natural that Whitelocke should have attributed his disappointment on this occasion to the hostility of the Court "for doing my duty in the court of the

Parliament when time was." But this view of the matter is hardly consistent with his subsequent promotion. And it is much more probable that it arose from Buckingham's pique at the rejection of Shute, who was also one of his satellites, and that he considered it a point of honour to carry the day with one man or the other. The whole episode is here narrated in very graphic style, but it is too long for quotation, and of too close texture to admit of being broken up.

In the following year Whitelocke became Chief Justice of Chester; Wales and the Palatine counties, of which Chester was one, having then a separate judicature; and in 1620 proceeded to the degree of serjeant-at-law, being subsequently knighted by the king at Theobalds. He has carefully pre-served the costs of these two dignities, and we find that the coif was charged at 2091. 6s. 11d., and the spurs at 44l. 19s. Sir James held this office about four years, when he was removed to the Court of King's Bench; Lord Northampton, President of the Council of the Marches, not finding him sufficiently pliable. A judge's salary, or wages, as Whitelocke terms it, were in those days no more than 1881. 6s. 4d. per annum, the remainder of his income being made up the remainder of his income being made up by fees, which were so considerable that in the year 1629 Sir James reckons his net income at 994l. 10s. As the unfortunate Charles was now beginning to quarrel seriously with his parliaments, the judges experienced great difficulty in getting their wages" paid. In Michaelmas Term, 1629, long arrears were due, and the learned men deputed four of their body, of whom Whitelocke and Sir John Croke were two, to wait on the Lord Treasurer on the subject. They however got nothing from this functionary but "sleevlesse and cunning answeares." Whether Sir James ever got his money, he does not tell us. But four years afterwards he himself was called on to meet that creditor with whom "sleevlesse and cunning answeares" are of no avail; and on the 22nd of June, 1632, this worthy and upright Englishman breathed his last amid the scenes which a career of honourable industry had made his own, and was laid by the side of his wife in the parish church of Fawley.

Ten years afterwards the Manor House was plundered by the Cavaliers, when the MSS. of his pamphlet on Impositions is supposed to have been destroyed. The old house, "pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thames, in the county of Buckingham, a short distance to the eastward of Henleyon-Thames," is, we believe, still standing, in much the same condition in which it was left by Whitelocke.

Among other curious customs recorded in this volume, that of Christmas presents is very fully illustrated. Sir James was evidently proud of the number he received. In the winter of 1621 he reckons them to have been worth 50l.; and in another place he trusts that his children will live worthily of the honour so shown to him. Among these "presents" we observe some curious items, such as "16 lodes of hay," "3 lodes of wood," "3‡ calves," "12 blackbirds," "15 lemons," &c. Query—Does the last entry denote that punch was drunk in the reign of James the First?

The Camden Society deserve well of the literary republic for this their latest contribution to its entertainment; and we tender our best thanks to the editor for his careful

The Master-Builder's Plan. By George Ogilvie, M.D. (Longmans.)

The chief embarrassment of Dr. Ogilvie in the construction and compilation of the little work before us must have been condensation; the next the selection of language and ideas easily "understanded of the people." The latter difficulty would have been to some extent provided for and removed by the circumstance of the contents having been originally prepared as lectures, or papers to be read; though, as the august and learned body before which they were to be exhibited was no less than the Aberdeen Philosophical Society, there is still room for wonder that, comparatively speaking, so little learned technicality, so sparing a supply of scientific jargon, and, in short, so few hard words have been allowed to find their way

Its object is to supply the want, forced on the author's notice by his own experience, of a popular treatise on the first principles of the organic architecture of the animal world. He seems to have been struck with the fact that, whilst at the lowest extremity as it were of the science, modern educational works supply rudimentary information on the quadruple arrangement of the living creatures past and present of the globe, and on their characteristics and subdivisions, and whilst at the very highest opposite extremity, so far attained, the researches of such gigantic and comprehensive minds as those of Cuvier and Oken, of Owen and of Forbes, have gradually unfolded to the scientific world. by a process of ever-condensing analysis, the existence of single typical forms and structures for at least each of the grand divisions or primary groups, there was no intermediate treatise by which ordinary readers and learners might rise above the almost tiresome formulæ of the rudimentary books, and catch some insight into the more glorious arcana.

The mind, for instance, may, as mere matter of memory, appropriate and retain the fact, that from Cuvier downwards scientific men have grouped in one class all the creatures possessed of backbones; but it has hitherto required no little wading through works of a high order, to comprehend that this arrangement is no arbitrary classification, but one based upon the knowledge of certain typical peculiarities constantly accompanying the possession of that useful and very marvellous column. A child may know that a mouse, an ostrich, a newt, a tortoise, and a perch, are all classed in primary group No. 1, and may remember that circumstance through life, but all along without any higher notion of why, than that they all have backbones; or without a suspicion that there is an essential identity of construction among them all-an identity which in some particulars extends nearly to what may be styled the dregs of the animal creation.

Dr. Ogilvie's design is to introduce us, through the medium of about two hundred pages, to these higher walks in zoology, and to explain in a comprehensive way the result, so far, of the researches we have alluded to We say "so far," because it is evident, from the differences in opinion among the most learned men on some of the points most important to the absolute and final reduc-tion of the whole animal world to a few distinct normal types, that this department of the science is still progressive. The fact that in so small a work it has been neces-

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sary to glance not only at most of the subdivisions of the great primary groups, but in many instances at distinct species and individuals, will enable our readers to understand our opening remark on the difficulty of condensation which the author must have encountered. He has wisely, therefore, confined himself to little more than sketchesvery bold masterly sketches—of the larger outlines of his subject, supplying ample references to the larger and more scientific works, for the benefit of those who wish further to prosecute the investigation.

The perusal, however, of his sketches, slight as they are, will convince the ordinary reader that:

"In each division of animals we can point out a very definite type, according to which the several species are constructed—a type, the essentials of which are never violated, even when it seems in a manner incompatible with the habits of particular animals—the necessary conformity being obtained in such cases, not by a departure from the type, but by a comparatively slight modification of some parts of the organisation, and that in a way quite consistent with its general character. Obviously the organic creation is constructed upon a great systematic plan: it is not to be compared to an overgrown village, in which the houses—commodious and well-constructed as they may be, each in itself—are scattered about without any order, every man having built as was good in his own eyes; it answers rather to our notion of a well-planned town, with the houses in regular streets, in each of which a certain uniformity prevails, while the streets themselves are arranged in that particular order which to the founder of the city seemed the most appropriate."

And in this view it will not be claiming too high a position for the conclusions arrived at, to contend with the author that:

"Late as may be its discovery, the law of typical conformation will not yield in importance, as a fundamental principle in Zoology, to that of the circulation of the blood in Physiology, or that of the revolution of the planets round the sun in astronomical science, for it gives the character of an inductive science to one which was previously only descriptive; and it admits of being applied to the elucidation of phenomena before—beyond all others—incapable of explanation: those of the production of monstrous forms."

We may add, in relation to the happily chosen title of the work, that the tone is as unexceptionable as it is philosophical; and that the grand moral deduction is not unnaturally forced or unnecessarily strained. as is often the case in educational and popular treatises, but that it easily and naturally springs from the facts established. suppose we have finally bid adieu to the days when well-meaning but narrow-minded men feared lest science and faith might clash, or the free development to its utmost extent of the one reveal facts which might tend to shake the foundations of the other. may conclude, that whatever be our shortcomings in other respects, we have at any rate reached so far as to be convinced that scientific research is the development of truth, and that where it seems to interfere with established dogma, it is only because it has not been pushed far enough. It is pleasing then to find one, to whom some part of the instruction at an important nursery of education is entrusted, grounding on the wonderful scientific facts he has been enunciating such important moral deductions as the following, with which we conclude our too brief notice of an exceedingly useful book:

"So long as the truth of the Divine personality is firmly grasped, the evidences of unity of organisation, instead of militating against the free

agency of the Creator, tend greatly to elevate our conceptions of His power and wisdom. We then see that in His works a greater problem is solved than the mere adaptation of means to ends, for this, without losing any of its completeness, is combined with a certain harmony and uniformity in the means themselves. We see the Almighty Creator, for the manifestation of His glory or other wise purposes, subjecting Himself, as it were, to laws—restricting Himself, so to speak, in the choice of the mechanism of His work, that the power and wisdom which bring it to perfection all the same, may be the more apparent.

"And in this, it has been remarked, lies one great distinction between the works of God and those of man; for the latter, as a common rule, keeps the end only in view, and declines to fetter himself by a uniformity of plan, which a finite agent naturally regards as an unnecessary incumbrance."

The History of the British Empire in India. By Edward Thornton, Esq. 2nd Edition. (Wm. H. Allen & Co.)

A SECOND edition of Mr. Thornton's voluminous "History of British India" is indicative of the growing interest attached to the affairs of our Eastern empire. The present edition has this advantage over its predecessor, that the six volumes are compressed into one, to correspond with the "Gazetteer of India." This condensation has been effected simply by the omission of the foot-notes, which rather impeded than assisted the student's progress. The somewhat tedious reflections in which Mr. Thornton too frequently indulged, in his anxiety to vindicate the reputation of his Honourable Masters, have also been withdrawn or considerably curtailed. On the other hand, an excellent map is prefixed, together with a chrono-logical index from the invasion of India by Mahmoud to the retirement of Lord Dalhousie. Nor may we omit to notice the glossary of Indian terms, which will be found extremely useful to newspaper readers.

Messrs. Allen & Co. have acted wisely in placing this standard "History of India" within the reach of all classes, and thus diffusing a correct knowledge of the series of happy blunders and heroic achievements, which have resulted in adding to the British empire a dependency containing 150 millions of people.

SHORT NOTICES.

On the Scope and Tendency of Botanical Study. By Cuthbert Collingwood, M. B. (Longmans; and E. Howel, Liverpool.) This is an inaugural address delivered before the Liverpool Royal Infirmary School of Medicine in May last by the able lecturer on botany at that Institution. It is distinguished by vigorous reasoning and profound intelligence; but it appears to us that the lecturer starts in one respect upon something like a false assumption. He assumes that the study of botany is regarded with disfavour. Whatever may be the case with the indolent classes of medical students, the assumption is far from being generally exact. Liverpool itself has produced some distinguished botanists. One of them a few years ago published a "Flora" of the neighbourhood. And Lancashire is notorious, or rather we would say, famous, for its popular appreciation of the science. In many parts of the county there are organised botanical clubs whose proceedings are as regularly recorded, in their humble way, as those of more imposing associations; and the members of them, though often externally without polish, are among the most intelligent and industrious of their class. They make regular interchanges of their botanical possessions, and the clubs generally possess an itinerant library, which comprises the latest and the best works upon the subject. And as to

the alleged distaste of medical pupils, we are persuaded that in the majority of cases the indisposition to enter upon the study arises, not from any natural repugnance to it, but from the formidable complexity of its technology. For, unless a youth be well-grounded in Latin and Greek, so that he can at once comprehend and appreciate the meaning of at least generic terms, nothing is more certain than that the nomenclature produces a sense of inextricable embarrasment. This, however, is a question of preparatory education. But where the right foundations are laid, technical difficulties are only temporary obstacles. At the same time we agree with the accomplished lecturer, that the glossology of botany might lecturer, that the glossology of botany might advantageously be pruned. But we cannot avoid repeating that we are sorry he has lent the weight of his name and position to an exaggerated impression that botany is not a popular study—especially in Lancashire.

The Settler's Guide to the Cape of Good Hope and Colony of Natal. (E. Stanford.) The increasing importance of the Cape of Good Hope and of Natal is attested by the number of Guides and Descriptions recently published, and by the fact that a newspaper is now issued regularly in London immediately upon the arrival of the monthly "Cape Mail." In the City, "Cape Mail day" has become nearly as common an expression as "Indian Mail day." These indications, floating as it were upon the stream of thought and occupation, show the direction of the current; and though in this instance they may be comparatively small and immaterial, they constitute an important element in estimating the social and commercial progress of such distant regions. There must certainly be large relations with the mother country, when any of its dependencies require mail steamers to interchange their communications every month; and great social interests must be engaged, otherwise a special newspaper could not be maintained in their behalf. A tendency to emigrate to the Cape must be visible, otherwise there would be no demand for Guides; and the Cape must possess attractions in the prospect of wealth and independence, otherwise intending emigrants would turn their steps elsewhere. The whole case is fairly put in this Guide. The discouragements and trials which the emigrant must expect to encounter, if he goes Cape-ward are frankly stated; there is no exaggeration on the other side of the picture—a fault, or something worse, not uncommon in many works professing to be Guides. "Blind guides" they are indeed. This little book, however, is to a great extent official; and where it is not official the highest authorities are mentioned for the statements it contains. If, therefore, any work of the kind is to be trusted certainly this may. It is accompanied by a map of South Africa, compiled from Captain Owen's survey, and a neat plan of

rom Captamentary Short-hand. By Thompson Cooper. (Bell & Daldy.) We are afraid we cannot say much in recommendation of Mr. Cooper's labours. They are based upon the old system of Mason, which has certainly stood its ground well, but we have failed to discover any practical improvement that Mr. Cooper has made in it. Mr. Cooper objects to the use of looped characters on the ground that they retard speed; but in his own method, and especially in his arbitraries, he does not hesitate to cause the writer, in order to form certain characters, to stay his advancing pen and go backward, to apply what we may call the finishing stroke in the combination. It is or ought to be a canon in stenography never to take the pen backwards. Loops, in all cases, may be formed without this necessity; while they are a great aid in the process of decyphering. Then, as to the use of arbitraries. In a scientifically constructed system,—by which we mean a system founded upon a true conception of the philological characteristics of the English language—arbitraries are unnecessary; in all they are a revil, and in most an unnecessary one too. They burden the memory, and very often cause confusion by being mistaken for ordinary characters. This is no imaginary case, as the oldest habitués in "the gallery" can testify. For these

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reasons we think Mr. Cooper has mistaken the sort of work which is wanted on stenography. It is one in which letters and words shall be represented by the fewest possible signs; and in which no character or combination of characters shall be admitted for which there is not a clear grammatical rule. All that the memory is then charged with is the rule; and the practice of forming long abbreviations thus becomes easy and safe, while they may be read years afterwards with the same facility as when they were first written. The work which best fulfils these conditions is old John as improved first by Molyneux, and afterwards by Gawtress.

The Bibliographer's Manual of English Litera-re. By William Thomas Lowndes. Part III. (Henry G. Bohn.) This is a new edition, known to book collectors, as containing, in the words of the title-page, "an account of rare, words of the title-page, "an account of rare, curious, and useful books, published in or relating to Great Britain and Ireland from the invention of printing." It also contains bibliographical and critical notices, collations of the rarer articles and the prices at which they have been sold in the present century. This edition has been revised and enlarged by Mr. Bohn himself, whose qualifications for the due and proper fulfillment of such an office are unquestionable. He observes that the labour bestowed upon the present part has been excessive. We are sure of it. The description of the works known to be written by Defoe and of those attributed to him is a proof. It ies twenty columns of small letter-press, and is full of interesting matter which could only have been collected by great labour and unwearied

General History of the Christian Religion and Charch. Translated from the German of Dr.
Augustus Neander. By Joseph Torrey. Vol. 9,
Parts 1 & 2. (H. G. Bohn.) These two parts
complete Mr. Bohn's acceptable edition of
Neander. The work itself has a recognised
value among all classes of theologians, and it has had no slight share in correcting historical pre-judices among many of them. The translation is by an American professor; and it is only due to his labours to say that they have been fulfilled with scrupulous fidelity and considerable literary

The Amateur's Magazine. No I. (M. Fryer.) -If this magazine be really what it professes to be, the production of amateur writers, we can only say that in some respects it would not discredit more professional labourers in the literary field.
The biographical sketch of William Cobbett is well written, so is the paper on Malay superstitions: and some of the poetry is far from indifferent. One ortwo other articles, however, bear unquestionable traces of the novitiate stage. Amongst these are "Helicon developed," and the interlude "The manwho would make a pun would pick a pocket."
The former may be tolerated, but the latter ought to have been omitted altogether, for the puns are feeble and far-fetched, while the general taste of the composition is very questionable. The general selection is not very judicious, but in this respect succeeding numbers will perhaps show an espect succeeding numbers will perhaps show an

God Manifest; a Treatise on the Goodness, Wisdom, and Power of God. By the Rev. O. Prescott Hiller. (Hodson & Son.) The object of this work is to show that man alone is responsible for all the evils from which he suffers; and this design is prosecuted throughout in a tone and in language which impress us with esteem for the writer. We need not say more as to the purpose of the volume. If it be somewhat discursive in matter and occasionally redundant in style, those blemishes are as minute as possible; and counter-balanced by the fact that it contains materials enough for a thousand discourses on practical religion.

A New Dictionary of Quotations. By the Author of "Live and Learn." (J. F. Shaw.) A carefully compiled and most useful work for general readers who have not the advantage of knowing any other language than their own. Readers

are increasing every day, and the age is so practical that it is the substantial rather than the ornamental, which constitutes the basis of popuornamental, which constitutes the basis of popular education. In proportion as this tendency is developed is the necessity for works of this description. All men cannot be classical scholars, nor can all men learn modern languages. It is both impracticable and inexpedient. both practical and expedient that they should read, and understand what they read. This book is a very "handy" help in that way, and invaluable for reference.

The Children's Picture-Book of English History, (Bell & Daldy.)—A charming little book, in which those events in English history most likely to be understood and appreciated by juvenile capacities are narrated in language that is a model of simplicity. The illustrations are numerous, but inferior in quality to the text.

We have received the first part of the "Journal of the Geological Society of Dublin." Published by M. H. Gill. "The Comet," a large lithographic map of "The True Course of Encke's Comet." By R. J. Morison, Esq., author of the "Solar System, as it is, and not as it is represented." Published by Berger. "Fly Leaves; a Book for the Churches." By "Aristarchus the Wanderer." Published by Partridge & Co. Also "Bell Martin."
By T. S. Arthur. Published by Hodson & Son. And "Cosmogony; or the Records of the Creation at the Time of Adam." Published by T. Jepps.

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LIST OF NEW BOOK S.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE publishing season is at hand, and already several new works of importance are announced. The close of the year promises to be more than usually fertile in this respect.

Messrs. Longman have issued their Quarterly

List, from which we find that Mr. Crowe's "History of France"-at least the first volume-will be published at the end of the present month. It is to consist of five volumes; and we have reason to to consist of five volumes; and we have reason to believe that it will in every way be worthy the reputation of the author. Mrs. Jameson again makes a welcome appearance shortly, with the fourth and concluding series of her delightful work, "Sacred and Legendary Art." The specific subject is "The History of Our Lord and of His Precursor, St. John the Baptist," with the personage and typical sphilage of the Old Tests. His Precursor, St. John the Baptist," with the personages and typical subjects of the Old Testament, as represented in Christian Art. Messrs. Longman announce various other publications of importance, and among them the third and concluding volume of Brialmont's "Life of the Duke of Wellington."

Mr. Murray announces the publication of the Marquis Cornwallis's correspondence relating to India, America, the Union with Ireland, and the peace of Amiens. Compiled from family papers, and disclosing the views and opinions of an eminent statesman and commander, this work must pos-sess great historical value; and it will probably modify the common opinion of numerous public events that occurred during his eventful life. It may also be interesting to notice that that dis-tinguished officer, Sir Howard Douglas, is about to publish a work on naval warfare with steam. Mr. Murray also announces the third and fourth volumes of Rawlinson's translation of Herodotus, which will complete the work.

Messrs. Hurst & Blackett, Mr. Bentley, and Messrs. Parker & Son, announce several new works. Messrs. Sampson Low, Son, & Co., have just published an exquisite edition of some of the most favourite English poems of the last two centuries, illustrated with upwards of two hundred engravings on wood, from drawings by the most eminent artists. And we may here add that Miss Procter's "Legends and Lyrics," which that Miss Procters "Legends and Lyrics," which were published only a few months ago by Messrs. Bell & Daldy, have already attained to a second edition — a proof that the public appareiate genuine poetry. Mr. Churchill's announcements embrace a large class of works of authority on medical and scientific subjects.

The National Association for the Advancement

The National Association for the Advancement of Social Science has held its anniversary meeting

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at Liverpool with most distinguished success. The Association takes cognisance of a variety of matters with which literary journals do not often meddle; but the present meeting has produced one development that is clearly within our province,—we mean the address of Lord Brougham on Popular Education, which is given in another part of the Gazette. That address cannot be perused without a sentiment of lasting gratitude towards the man who has done so much for this great cause, and of admiration of the amazing energy and surpassing ability with which he has annihilated all the cavils and objections that it amminated and the earlies and operations that it appears are still made to the progress of intellectual improvement among the people. We most heartily recommend this address to the careful study of our readers.

The alleged discovery that electricity is an anæsthetic in operations connected with the teeth, occupied the attention of the College of teeth, occupied the attention of the College of Dentists at a special meeting on Tuesday. The current of opinion during the discussion was rather opposed to the hypothesis that electricity prevents pain. The subject was referred to a committee, whose report will necessarily possess much interest, not alone in a scientific point of view.

The London and Middlesex Archæological Society will hold a general meeting at Enfield on Wednesday next, when several objects of interest Wednesday next, when several objects in the neighbourhood will be visited, and papers read by members of the Society. Lord Ebury will preside.

We have to announce another important discovery relative to Alexander Pope, in addition to the manuscripts lately brought to light:—one hundred letters, nearly all in the hand of Pope, relating to the translation of the Odyssey, and all relating to the translation of the Odyssey, and all ine lited. They form his correspondence with Broome, and are now in the hands of Messrs. Puttick & Simpson of Piccadilly, for sale by auction. This most important contribution to literary history gives much additional information as to the relative shares of Pope, Fenton, and Broome, in the translation of the Odyssey.

OUR STATE PAPER OFFICE.

In the concluding paragraph of our last paper relating to Sir Walter Ralegh (See Literary Gazette N. S., No. 11, p. 338) we expressed our intention of returning to the subject at a future time, and of illustrating some of the events of his life during the reign of King Lungs I.—Ruthefore proceeding. the reign of King James I. But before proceeding to do so, we wish to add two or three incidental notices of Sir Walter, during the reign of Elizabeth, not previously alluded to. They occur in the years 1586 and 1587, when Sir Walter was high in favour with Elizabeth, and are curious as an evidence of the universal belief in his influence an evidence of the universal benefit in ms innuence with his sovereign, and the importance and weight that was attached to his good offices with the Queen. The French ambassador was of opinion, or at all events affirmed, that Ralegh possessed the "most ability to move Her Majesty in any matter that might concern the welfare and service of his master," and Anthony Babington, the conspirator against Elizabeth's religion, her person, and her crown, urgently appealed to Ralegh's influence to save his life and obtain his pardon.

In the first letter allusion is made to a quarrel between Elizabeth and Ralegh by Mons. Cherelles:

Mons. Cherelles to the Queen of Scots. (Extract.)

23 March, 1586, Je croy que V. M. n'ignore poynt que depuis quatre ou cinq ans en ça la royne d'Angleterre, a grandement favorizé le Sire Walter Rawley comme elle faict encores, mais depuis quelque jours il y a en entre eux quelque courroux qui a beaucoup affligé l'un et l'autre, et dit on qu'a esté à l'occasion d'un gentilhomme nommé Blont, frère de Mylord Mongey [Mountjoy], que sa Mar favorize grandement depuis quelque moys en ça. La dite Royne d'Angleterre a esté aussy fort affligée et courroncée de la trop grande authorité que le Conte de Leycestre s'est attribué en Fiandres. trop grande authori attribué en Flandres.

We gather from this, that Elizabeth and Ralegh had quarrelled some days previous to the 23rd of March, 1586, which appears to have been a source of great trief to both of them. It was probably

caused by Sir Walter's jealousy of Charles Blount, brother to Lord Mountjoy, subsequently Lord Mountjoy and Earl of Devonshire, to whom the Queen had also shown great favour. We are also informed that Elizabeth herself is very vexed and angry with the Earl of Leicester for taking upon himself too great authority in Flanders.

In allusion to the Earl of Leicester we claim indulgence for quoting an extract of an original letter in the British Museum (Cotton. MS. Galba, c. IX., 60. 157) from Secretary Walsingham to Leicester, printed in the "Leycester Correspond-ence," edited by John Bruce, Esq., for the Camden Society. It is dated a few days only after Mons. Cherelles wrote the above, the 1st April, 1586, and has especial reference to the conduct of Sir Walter Ralegh towards the Earl of Leicester. That there were jealousies between these great men is well known, but we think the following so conclusive that Ralegh was not "an ill instrument towards Queen Elizabeth against the Earl of Leicester," that we print it in this place, with our excuses to those who are already acquainted with the letter itself.

acquainted with the letter itself.

At the tyme of her majestye [sig]ning of the dyspatche she let me understand, that Rawley, hearing of some [rumours] geven owt here in coorte [that] he had ben an yll inst [rument] towardes her agaynst [your] lordship, dyd humbly desyre [to] have ben sent awaye w[ith this] dyspatche, to the ende [he might] have justerlyed himselfe towardes your lordship, in case [any] sooche synister [information] had ben gyven unto you agaynst him: which her [wish] was that I shoold signe[fy unto] your lordship, and to assure you, [upon] her honor, that the gentleman hathe don good offices [for you], and that, in he tyme of hir dysplessure, he dealt as earnestly for you as any other in this world that professythe most good will towardes your lordship. This I wryte by her majestie's commaundment, and therfor I praye your lordship to take knowledge therof, in suche sorte as you shall thinke good.

Our next letter is written by Anthony Babington to his "good cosen," on the 19th September, 1586, in which he earnestly pleads for his life, and offers 1000l. to Ralegh as an inducement to procure his pardon;

cure his pardon;
Good cosen, speake wth M' Flower, for I wrote unto him yesterday; if he receved my letter I know not, but he y' keepethe me heere, told me y' he spoke wth you yesterday concerning [sei,] and delivered unto you a letter y' I sent to my Lord Tresorer and a note y' I sent unto you; and he told me y' you had moved Mr Rawley for me and promised a thousand pownd, if he coold get my pardon, hereby I cold performe to pay so muche, for I have frendes woold disburse it for me. Good cosen, speake in my behalf, and move some one of Mr. Vice-chamberlaines genlemen in the matter, and let him tell his M' I can do her Majis more service then woold recompence my fawlte. Good cosen, deale for me, or, if you will not, speak with the younge Mr Lovelace, and he will do any thing for me, and deliver him this note, and bed him tell Mr Flower y' in respect of the service y' I cane do her Majis, I desire to speake with his M'.

Apart from the interest attached to this letter.

Apart from the interest attached to this letter, as touching Babington's efforts to avert his punishment, we have evidence of the influence which Ralegh was known to possess with Queen Elizabeth. Sir Walter was at this period high in favour with his Sovereign, and it is clear that Babington concluded he had power sufficient, if he willed, to obtain his pardon. Babington was executed on the day after he wrote the above.

On March 6, 1587, Archibald Douglas, in a letter to Secretary Walsingham, describes what took place at a conference between the ambassador from France] and Sir George Cary, and adds:—
the ambassador "magnyfied S Walter Rawley
ab omnibus locis topicis [sic] that mycht be contened in all the cardinale vertueis, bot specially in judgment and modesty wyt most habilite to move hir Mate in any mater that mycht concerne the veilfair and service of his Maister, and thairfor cravit that he mycht be imployit in eny mater he wold haif don."

Here is an instance of the French ambassador not only extelling Ralegh's virtues, judgment, and modesty, but earnestly craving his influence and good offices with the Queen on behalf of his

But let us pass on to the accession of James I. But let us pass on to the accession of cames 1. We wish, however, to remind our readers that we do not by any means profess to sketch even the life of Sir Walter Ralegh. Our purpose is to print such State Papers as relate to this great man or illustrate any of the occurrences in his life, and to endeavour to point out such passages as are of

interest, leaving the reader to form his own opinion as to their value, in reference to many points about which there is so much controversy.

points about which there is so much controversy. Queen Elizabeth had only been dead fifteen days when Cecyll and Edward Bruce, who was the King of Scotland's ambassador at the court of Elizabeth, addressed a letter to Lord Henry Howard, subsequently Earl of Northampton, and the same nobleman who, on the part of Cecyll, had conducted a secret correspondence with James a few months previous to Elizabeth's death. It is a rough draft, largely corrected by Cecyll himself. It shows the care which Cecyll took to keep Ralech away from King James, and his efforts to Ralegh away from King James, and his efforts to prevent Sir Walter from paying his court to the new monarch. He assigns, as his reasons, that would be a bad precedent to allow persons to leave "this place" who were in hopes of procuring preferment; that a great many gentlemen accompa-nied Sir Walter, for whom he had promised to do great things; and concludes with an insinuation that he was unworthy to be trusted with seret matters of state which would be prejudicial to the king's service to be made known.

Secretary Cecyll and Ed. Bruce, Lord Kinloss, to Lord Henry Howard [by Mr. Somersett]

Secretary Cecyll and Ed. Bruce, Lord Kinloss, to Lord Henry Howard [by Mr. Somersett]

9 April, 1603.

Our very good Lord,—Because we are driven in some thinges of this nature to use the liberty of some blanks sent by his May principally for stayinge those that would beginn an ill presydent to leave this place only in hope to procure some sutes and preferments at his Math hands before he should be throughly informed ether of their meritts or desertes, we thinke it not amisse (for coveringe that trust, whereof we have hetherto made soe muche good use) to move your ly to acquaynt his May privally with the contents of a IF with we have been fayne to conceave hee on one of the blankes especially for stayinge of the Caps—of the Guard [Sir Walter Ralgen] whose first would have carryed most of them with him, from with beinge dissemaded now he resolved to be gone and han laboured a great many gentlemen to accompany him, only by his undertakeyng to doe great thinges for them, in see muche as some that are principally commanded of have gone with him. In this respect because we cannot tell whether his May (beeinge informed by some of his frends that by such a 15e he hath been stayd) may please to remember to acknowledge it, we thinke it not amisse to send you the copye of that wish hath been shewed him directed to his privy counsell, to we have geven a date of the 9 of this moneth, because he pretended (uppon some former prohibitions of the whole grand counsell, except some one parciall to him) that he had warrant from the Kings to come unto him, wi'il now it be his Mas pleasure uppon the least notyce we will forbeare any way to interrupt. The words of the 16 concerninge him we send you, only because we wold not have him, if he should go or send be able to discover to any body here y secret trust by we'we have so well kept himgs in order, and w'were inconvenient for us to have made knowen who being but privat men might have ill will of many great ones for divers things we'we have so well kept himgs in order, and w'were in

Three weeks later we find Sir Walter at Bath, wife and himself anxiously expecting Lord Cobham, who because he came not a week before they despair of ever seeing "in thes parts if your L. come not now." Unfortunately we have no means of ascertaining on what subject they feared Cobham's mind was changed. It could scarcely bear any allusion to the circumstances in which they shortly afterwards figured so conspicuously and so unhappily. But here is the letter:

Sir Walter Ralegh to Lord Cobham. Bathe, the 29 of Aprill [1803].

My worthy Lorde:

Here we attend yow and have don this senight, and * * mourne your absence, the rather senight, and * * mourne your absence, the rather because wee feare y' your mimd] is changed, I pray let us here from yow att least, for if yow cum not wee will so hereby home and make butt short taringe here. My Wife will dyspaire ever to see yow in thes parts if your Leone not now. Wee can but longe for yow and wyshe you as [our] owne lives whereover.

Your L. everest faythful to homor yow most,
To the right honorable

W. Raleen.

my very good Lorde the Lorde Cobham

geve thes. It does not appear that Sir Walter fell into dis-It does not appear that Sir Walter fell into dis-favour or disgrace immediately on King James's arrival in England, because we find that on the 1st of May, 1603, a "Grant of the Office of Keeper of Jersey for life" was made to him; and on the 21st of May following Cecyll gives direc-tions, by the King's commands, that Ralegh's patent for the Isle of Jersey should be altered; and that 3001. a year reserved to her late Majesty be wholly omitted "for that his Ma" is pleased to remit the same unto him." Here is the letter to Windebank, Clerk of the Signet:

Sir Robert Cecyll'to Thomas Windebank,

Sir Robert Cecyce where the Sir Robert Cecyce where the Sir Robert Cecyce where the Sir Wayn least, for certain considerations, to have some alteration made in Sir Walter Raleghe Patent for the Island of Jarsey, and to have leaft out a condition of £300 a yeare reserved unto her May; I have thought good to require you that a new Patent may be drawen, according to the former in all things, safe only that the clause of £300 a yeare reserved, be wholy omitted, for that his May is pleased to remit the same muto him. And so I comitt you to God. From the Court at Greenwich, this 21st of May, 1603.

To my very loving frend

To my very loving frend

Ro, CECYLL.

To my very loving frend Mr. Thomas Windebank Clerk of his Ma^{rp} Signett.

We now arrive at the most painful and anxious crisis of Ralegh's life—his arrest, with Lords Cobham, Grey, and others, on a charge of treason. On 17th July Lord Cobham was examined, and among other answers to interrogatories:

Theirly dothe deny to set his hand to any thinge, and thinkelt that beinge a Baron of the Realme, as he concaveth he is not bound to do it. * * * He confessed he receaved a letter from S' Walter Rawley sythence ! . was before the LL, the effect of the letter was that he had ben called before the Counsell and asked divers questions before his L., and had cleered him in all

thinges.
On the 19th July, Lord Cobham was again examined before the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Mar, Lord Henry Howard, Sir Robert Cecyll, Lord Mountjoy, and others.

Beegin, Lord Mountly), and others.

He dothe affyrme he sent the lives [from Count Aremberg] backe again [which] he receaved from S' Walter Bawley. Being asked when he sent last to S' Walter Bawley, he sayth after S' Rychard Montperson and S' Thomas Eemondes had apprehended him, he sent word by his steward Meltus to S' Walter Rawley to let him know that as he had sent him word of this * * * before the * * * so he was now restrayned. Being before the * * so he was now restrayned. Being asked if S Walter Rawley and he had at any tyme any conference about Marcham or Copley, he denyeth the

Same.

Beinge asked if he saw S' Walter Rawley sythence to lis remembrance.

Taken before us,
C.R. SHREWSBURY,
MAR,
H. HOWARD,
E. WOTTON.

There is a memorandum by Lord Cobham (dated 12 July, 1603), as follows:

My great pearl with my diamond ring I delivered to Sir W. R. y 9 of July, an ounce of amber grease I gave him to give unto my Ladie his wife from me.

Two days after Lord Cobham's examination, the Earl of Northumberland writes a mysterious letter to Cecyll, and encloses one for the King (unfortunately missing):

The Earl of Northumberland to Sir Robert Cecyll. Croydon, Thursday [the 21 July, 1603].

By the contents of it his letter to the King] you may gather what frendship I require at y hands. If you think it sufficient, let it passe. I have sent you my scale, and therefore I pray you make it up. If you mislike it owt of y judgment and advise, send it me backe agains why yopinion. Perhaps I should have knowen more of these matters, if Rawleighe had not conceaved, as he told me, that I could keepe nothing from you. I am now glad of those thoughts in him, and y' friendship and mine never the sent of the sent of the present, than that I desire you to deliver me or help me forward to it, and to believe I am the man still that you ever tooke me for, from which

Northumberland will never swerve.

NORTHUMBERLAND will never swerve. The allusion he makes to the belief Ralegh entertained that he was in the habit of telling Cecyll everything he heard, and his assurances of friendship to the Secretary of State augur unfavourably for Sir Walter, and lead us to suppose that the Earl was ready and willing to do Cecyll service, "if Ralegh have done any thing that is not justi-

We shall return to this subject next week.

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South Kensington Museum .- During the SOUTH KRNSINGTON MUSEUM.—During the week ending 9th October, 1858, the visitors have been as follows:—On Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday, free days, 3,675; on Monday and Tuesday, free evenings, 4,505. On the three students' days (admission to the public sixpence) 716; one students' evening, Wednesday, 128. Total, 9,024. From the opening of the Museum, 632,215.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

Paris, 13th October THERE is a sort of literature here to which it is in my mind no waste of time to pay attention. I mean the official literature of the Moniteur, when hymns of glory are to be channted to his Imperial Majesty. It is to be remarked, that the exaggeration of eulogy is always in the inverse ratio to the magnitude of the Emperor's deeds. When anything of any importance is really going on, the pæans of the Moniteur are not with the French nature generally. Thus, during the Crimean war, and while hard and serious work lay before the army in the East, the articles in the Monitew had nothing more than the blustering terms which is company to the artical charge in the Monitew had nothing more than the blustering that which is company to the artical charge. ing tone which is common to the national character upon such occasions. There was no attempt to transform Louis Napoleon into Jupiter, or his entourage into something like the god-like assemblage upon "high Olympus." On the On the contrary, when there is absolutely nothing to take notice of, when the Emperor has had no earthly opportunity of manifesting either firmness of purpose, or sagacity, or courage, or any possible quality to which a courtier's panegyric may hang itself, then, the prose of the government historio-grapher swells out to a degree of inflation to which that of the frog in the fable is a perfect joke. Never, perhaps, did a year pass over in which fewer acts of any import have had to be ascribed to the present ruler of France. The one only thing connected with him of any magnitude is the fact of having been shot at in January last, unless, indeed, we are to count as a great "event" the banquetings and receptions at Cherbourg and in Brittany. Well, the Monitum feeling, I presume, how utterly all ground for any expression of admiration was wanting at the present hour, has had recourse to the most wonderfully hyperbolical devices, in order to persuade the people of this country that the man who governs them is something absolutely different from, and superior to, their own species. "We are all mortal," said I forget what preacher, in the time of Louis XIV., but suddenly catching sight of one of the courtiers, seated just behind the king, and perceiving on his countenance the marks of how very audacious he thought the proposition—the orator paused, and altered his sentence, repeating it thus—"We are all mortal, that is almost all of us are so (Nous sommes tous mortels . . . ou presque tous")!!! These words "presque tous" have, from those days to words "prespue tous" have, from those days to these remained proverbial, and one of the chief reproaches levelled at the ancien régime, and above all at Louis XIV., is precisely the impiously absurd phraseology in which, upon several occasions, we find mention made of "the King," as an absolutely sacred personage. It has however always been supposed that these ridicules of the old court of France could never be revived in the present sulight and age, and it was believed to be present enlightened age, and it was believed to be a matter of course and of consistency, that a nation that had waded up to its neck in blood to conquer what it was pleased to term "its rights and its dignity," would not consent to be regarded with the same disdain wherewith it was theated three hundred years ago by its sovereign lords, nor immolate the descendants of its lawful monarchs to its barbarous sense of equality, merely to lie couchant half a century later, and ignominiously lick the boots of an adventurer who knew how to lay strong hands on a terrified multitude. Yet, if you take the trouble to read the leading articles of the Moniteur for the last week, you cannot help being surprised and shocked at the tone in which the sovereign is spoken of.

spoken of.

Last Thursday, after describing the manner in which Napoleon III. commanded the movements in the camp of Chalons, and doing so in a way to lead its readers into conceiving that the genius of Alexander, Cæsar, Condé, Turenne, and Napoleon I. was altogether and collectively eclipsed by the imperial strategist of the coup détat, the Moniteur tries to surmount the species of moral blindness to which it is reduced by the too

dazzling splendour of the apparition it evokes, and goes groping about in the mazes of its own admiration, and stumbling upon ludicrous phrases of this kind: "Whilst he is following out and ordering the execution of those complex features ordering the execution of those complex features that, joined together, make the one entire whole called a military manœuvre, his Majesty's counternance preserves that unalterable calmness without which there is no power to be obtained over a vast mass of men!" Now, one really is tempted to ask what are the "dread accidents" which, in the execution of any camp manœuvre should make it praiseworthy in the French Emperor to preserve his calmness; unless, indeed, he be a prey to the fear lest some republican serieant or corporal should fire a shot at him. lican serjeant or corporal should fire a shot at him, and thus bring to a sudden end all his sham fighting? If Louis Napoleon is quite sure of the soldiers round him, it might be worth while to ask the hymn-chaunters of the Moniteur what earthly cause for alarm he can have that should make his maintenance of a calm attitude so very

remarkable a fact.

remarkable a fact.

But at the close of the same article we find the following:—"The manœuvres having been interrupted for a short time, the Emperor remained in the midst of his troops, and fresh enthusiasm was visible on all sides. The soldiers are drawn onwards to the august countenance that smiles upon them, and allows them to a marked out of the same than the same and actions. them, and allows them to approach and contemplate it with calm and cheerful gentleness" (!!); and as though fearful of having represented his awful master as too condescending, the official hireling adds: "Nevertheless in this kind of military familiarity into which, for a few instants, the sovereign deigns to admit the simple and devoted men around him, there is nothing that can recall the memory of the tumultuous times that recall the memory of the tumultuous times that are luckily gone by, and each one distinctly understands that order is the force and principle of the Imperial æra." Two days later, mentioning the arrival of the Empress in the camp, the same narrator observes that "all movement and life are owing to the presence of the August Persons," (always huge capital letters to the initials of these words!) "whose advent fills the air with acclamations." whose advent fills the air with acclamations. Seriously, if the camp at Chalons be so sad a place as the *Moniteur* tells us, excepting during the few days Louis Napoleon passes there in allowing the light of his countenance to shine upon his troops, I wonder it can be productive of any good at all, and it would be desirable to discover how many suicides are committed during the two or three months when there can be no hope of the Imperial presence bringing gladness to the hearts of his warriors! The government journal speaks of the "moral aspect" of the scene when such joys

as it has pourtrayed above were wanting.

In another passage we are told how the "mimic wars" (that is, sham fights) which the Emperor directs at the camp of Chalons, "enable you to judge of the brilliant valour of the troops;" and it is asserted that "when you have seen Napo-leon III. form and cause to be executed those powerful combinations that show what are the resources of an army, you retire from the scene of action full of an impression, never to be effaced, of his genius, which shines forth incomparably in the exercise of supreme command."

Now first, let it be premised that there is not a general in all France who does not laugh—openly when he dares, but invariably in his sleeve—at Louis Napoleon's pretensions to generalship; it constitutes the one great apprehension of all the superior officers in the French army, and is the superior officers in the French army, and is the prime and reigning dread of whomsoever sees in the future the probabilities of a war: but, this set aside, how is it possible that "mimic wars" should enable any one with a grain of sense in his head to judge of the "valour" of an army? Between the sham and the "real thing" there is unfortunately no small difference, and I dare say if the Emperor Napoleon III. were to "read up" the battle of Watsplace or the famous expresions. the battle of Waterloo, or the famous campaigns of the Peninsula, and have them enacted by his troops, instructing them what they should, but what they did not do on those memorable occasions, I dare say that, at this post-performance, victory would invariably crown the imperial eagle,

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which it omitted to do when the piece was enacted in earnest. It is a curious slip of the pen for a French official writer to declare that sham fighting shows off the troops of the Emperor's army to the best advantage, and, in the way of a puff, it strikes me that something more substantial than this

might be invented.

The chief circumstance of the actual week would in other days have been the opening of the Italian in other days have been the opening of the Italian Opera, but it is far from being this at the present time. M. Calzado has "done up" the house a newf, and a marvellously pretty house it is, and the one perhaps in all Europe which shows off women and their dress to the best advantage. But where are they who are to be "shown off?" Echo may indeed answer "Where?" The Italiens is exactly the place of all others where it is existent onto the tarrible confusion wavepubly in easiest to note the terrible confusion wrought in Paris society by the Revolutions of the last twenty years. The people who remember the Restoration tell you that nothing can compare with the aspect of The people who remember the Restoration this theatre (then situate in a different part of the town) under Charles X. This is possible, but we will not remount so high. Under the last years of Louis Philippe's reign, when society, divided by politics, yet consented to meet upon the neutral ground of pleasure and of the arts, the Italiens was the rendezvous for all the various aristocra-cies. The duchesses of the Faubourg St. Germain were box-neighbours with those of the old empire, who were out-neighbours with those of the out empre, who were, with few exceptions, Orleanists; and the ministers and rich bankers of the July monarchy applauded a favourite opera simultaneously with the ex-gentlemen of the chamber to the princes of the elder branch. Before the supremacy of Grisi, or Rubini, or Lablache, there were no liostilities of party; what (out of the political arena) formed Parisian society in those days was really and genuinely devoted to the arts, and it found a delightful relaxation in the strains of Rossini and his successors. All this is over now; there is little of elegance left anywhere, small taste, and no love for music. Society is one vast mushroom-bed now in Paris, and to be rich, very rich, richer still, is the sole pre-occupation. It is perhaps not fair to judge of a night in the first week of Octovast mushroom-bed now in ber, for literally nobody is in Paris now; but in January the composition of the house will be what it is now, and the rare applause as wanting in intelligent appreciation as now, and as carelessly given. The taste for elegant pleasures is going by here, and that for manlier ones is not replacing it; they will not fox-hunt more in France because they care for the arts less: They are growing

vulgar in every way at once—voilà tout.
At the same time, let me say what is given to them at the Italiens is, as yet, not super-excellent.

Mdme. Penco is better than that little "Flibertigibbet" in petticoats, La Piccolomini; but she is neither comparable to Mdme, Bosio in the Traviata, nor is she absolutely good, setting com-parison aside. She has a stout voice of her own, and both in talent and person is eminently what the Scotch characterise by the word "braw." All this will not raise Les Italiens from their ashes.

Paris, Wednesday,

In referring in my last to the subject of duelling amongst literary men, I did not anticipate that in a very few days a new duel would be fought between two editors of small periodicals. however, was the fact. But neither of the com-batants was wounded; and so, as is usual in such matters, they embraced, and—went to breakfast. One of the daily journals, I see, makes this new affair the taxt of an extellar of the company of the comaffair the text of an article on literary duelling, in which it takes up the same ground as I did in my last letter,—namely, that the thing has become a nuisance, which ought to be abated. In no other profession or calling in this country—not even, due regard being had to numbers, in the army itself-are there so many duels as in that of lite rature; and in none are duels resolved on for such paltry, frivolous, puerile, utterly unworthy Is there any "reasonable reason" authors should be more prone to quarrel than other men? Is it moral, or Christian-like, or gentlemanly, or the act of good citizens, or in any

way right and proper, that when they do quarrel, way right and proper, that when they do quarter, they should make immediate arrangements for shooting each other through the head? An in-dignant "No!" is the only answer that can be returned to such questions. And not only is the readiness to quarrel and to fight unjustifiable, but it creates a cry of horror against the parties when the consequences are serious—a shout of derision when (as, truth to speak, happens in nine cases out of ten) no blood is shed, and the sanguinary combatants go arm-and-arm to feast at the nearest eating-house. And this horror and this derision descends from the parties immediately concerned upon the whole profession to which they belong: "If these be your fellows, what are you?" is the not unjust judgment of the world on all who ply the pen. The seniors of the literary calling should see to this. It is true that almost all the men who engage in duels are very young, or very con-ceited, and that their object is not so much to slay one-another, as to be talked about and to see their names in the newspapers; but they should be taught by the older and the wiser, that a great and important vocation cannot be allowed to be brought into discredit for their convenience or by

The daily newspaper which refers to this duelling mania states that it is caused by the silly practice which French periodical writers have of writing about themselves and their own private affairs, and it recommends that the practice be abandoned. Undoubtedly, if writers would avoid personalities, the purely political, literary, and artistic topics they might discuss would scarcely ever occasion or give a pretext for an armed com-bat; and most undoubtedly the abandonment of personalities would add greatly to the dignity of letters, and be an immense relief to the public. But for my part I despair of ever seeing anything of the kind done by French scribes. Possessed in a pre-eminent degree of that vanity which distinguishes their nation, they cannot if they would, and they would not if they could, abstain from indulging it-and what more exquisite indulgence is there than talking of oneself? What they have written, what they are writing, and what they propose to write; what they think of this or that personage, and what that or this personage thinks of them; where they live and how they are lodged; the manner in which they sit in the easy chairs when they read, and the sort of dressing gown and slippers in which they write; on what day they dined with the Consulwrite; on what day they diffed with the Consul-General of Timbuctoo, and the astonishingly brilliant things they said at his table; whether they are married or not, and, if so, the notions which from personal experience they have formed of the holy estate of matrimony; the names, professions, residences, fortunes, and characters of all their friends; the reason why they took a trip on such a railway at such a date, and what they saw in going and returning; how the other day they went out shooting with the Duke de ——, and in firing at a partridge killed a gamekeeper; the sum they will inherit on the death of that horrid old aunt of theirs, who won't die; the sort of wine they like best, and the restaurant at which they dine most frequently; conversations they had the other night with Mdlle , the danseuse, and the new decorations of her boudoir; their opinions on their brother authors, and silly compliments to, or snarls at them:—these and kindred matters, all impertment or stupid, are dealt in more or less by all scribes, and not a few of the scribes have the incredible impudence to write nothing else from year's end to year's end. In England no writer or editor would dare to fill his columns with such garbage; but of French periodical readers it may be said that "suffering is the badge of all their tribe," and

they bear it. Meyerbeer's Robert le Diable was performed for the four-hundredth time at the Grand Opera the other night. How few are the great five act operas that have attained the honour of four hundred representations at one house! According to popular belief the distinguished German composer makes loads of money by his works at the Grand Opera, but the fact is that Robert le Diable.

though it has brought into the management at a moderate calculation from 130,000% to 150,000%, moderate calculation from 130,000% and 3000%, and only yielded him between 2000% and 3000%, and of that sum he has to hand over a large author of the libretto. The reason moderate calculation from 130,000%. to 150,000%. why he has not received more is that the arrange. ment between the management of the Opera and the composers is that they shall receive a fixed sum for the first forty performances of a new work, and a smaller fixed sum for every subsequent one; whereas in all other theatres the authors of new pieces receive a regular per centage on the gross receipts of all performances, and such per centage, when a work has the rare good fortune to have "a run," amounts to a large sum indeed. And talking of Meyerbeer, I may mention that the story current some weeks ago, to the effect that he had objected to Limnander's new opera on a Breton subject, Les Blancs et les Bleus (in other words Royalists and Republicans) being brought out this season at the Opera Comique, because he had in preparation one on another Breton subject for the same house, was altogether false. He never made any objection opera is shortly to be represented, and that he does not intend giving this winter any Breton opera at all, but simply a very slight piece in opera at an, our simply a very singar piece in which only three persons are to figure. I call this a proof, because the exalted position of Meyerbeer in art enables him to dictate his will to any theatre, and, above all theatres, to the Opera Comique, which owes him so much for his Etoile du Nord.

The time is evidently close at hand at which every European state will be bound by treaty to protect the copyright of foreigners in literary and artistic productions. England and France have already treaties to that effect between themselves, and each with a number of other states : and the list of treaty-bound countries is constantly being added to. Quite recently, for example, a literary convention was concluded between Belgium and Holland, and at this very moment one is being negotiated between France and Switzerland. When will the United States begin to act in this matter? It is really high time for them to move. To be the one solitary great country which tolerates literary piracy is bad enough; to be the only country, great or small, which does so, would be

SCIENTIFIC.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

SECTION A.—ASCENDING NODES OF PLANETS.

Professor STEVELLY read a paper by A. J. Cooper, Esq., U. S., "On the Perihelia and Ascending Nodes of the Planets." The paper set forth that the writer had previous to 1851 male some observations on this subject which had been communicated by him to the scientific world. The last notice which he sent to the Royal Society was in 1857, when the number of known planets There were now 62, but no elements of the other eleven had been as yet computed. Taking 61 of these, he found that the perihelia of 42 are found in the semicircle of heliocentric longitude between 0° and 180°, and only 19 in the other semicircle. With reference to the ascending nodes, 42 were likewise found between 0° and nodes, 42 were have 180°, and only 18 in the remaining semicircle. But the appended table shows some remarkable results, viz., that when there were only 4 known asteroids and seven large planets, or if adding Neptune there was twelve in all, the perihelia of 10 of these were found between 0° and 180°, and of the reades of the 11 none were in the semicircle 180° to 360°. The table also shows that adding to the first 12 those subsequently discovered in groups of 10, the number of the perihelia and number of ascending nodes in each semicircle were about almost exactly similar. It was also a subject worthy of notice that the perihelia and ascending nodes were frequently grouped together in a remarkable manner. The tables are as follow, which show the number of planets in each semicircle :-

Dovid	nelia .			0° to 180°	***	180° to 360°
Whe	n 12 planets	were	10	***	2	
	22	22	***	17		5
27	32	33	***	25	***	7
99	42	33	***	30	***	12
23	52	22		37	***	15
22	61	33	***	42	***	19
		As	cending	Nodes.		
				0° to 180°	***	180° to 360°
When 11 planets there were				11	***	0
	21	22	***	18	***	3
99	31	23	***	25	***	6
"	41	22	***	30	***	11
33	51	22	***	36	***	15
99	60	32	***	42	***	18
.,	0	PROPERTIES OF PHOSPHORES				OBTTO

Dr. GLADSTONE read a communication by himself and the Rev. T. Pelham Dale, on some optical properties of phosphorus. He said that phosphorus was known to be highly refractive and disfusive. Its refractive index had been determined at 2.125 or 2.224, a number scarcely exceeded by that of diamond or chromate of lead. This determination was made without reference to temperature, and was that part of the spectrum measured indicated. was man part of the retrieve that the retrieve the retrieve to the Rev. Baden Powell, produced numbers which showed not merely a very high refractive power, but an amount of disfusion unknown in any other substance. The disfusive power was nearly twice that of bi-sulphide of carbon, and largely exceeded that of even oil of cassia; its only rival was that assigned to chro-mate of lead, but some doubt seemed to rest on that determination. The determinations of the disfusion of phosphorus made by persons experi-menting had indicated an amount scarcely exceeding that of bisulphate of carbon, but a difficulty ing that of bisulphate of carbon, but a difficulty attending the examination of phosphorus would sufficiently explain this. Phosphorus in a liquid condition had apparently never been examined, as difficulties had arisen from its inflammability, and from the action on cement. An examination of the properties of liquid phosphorus showed a considerable diminution of both the refractive way the discipline reverse it we heirs in discreand the disfusive power, it not being in direct ratio with the diminution of density. Liquid phosphorus exhibits a greater amount of sensitiveness than had been observed in any other substance, and it was evidently greater at the high than at the low temperatures. The effect of temperature on disfusion could not be accurately determined. A saturated solution of phosphorus in bisulphide of carbon was almost as refractive and disfusive as melted phosphorus itself. There was a certain want of clearness in phosphorus which prevented the lines being distinguished without great difficulty, which did not arise from any opacity, or from the crystalline character of solid phosphorus, or from unmelted pieces floating about, for it occurred in a solution of bisulphide of carbon. The addition of phosphorus to bisul-phide of carbon rendered the spectrum seen through it misty, according to the amount of phosphorus. This was not due to the great rephosphorus. This was not due to the great re-maction, or the great disfusion, or the great sen-sitiveness, though this had undoubtedly some-thing to do with it. To what was this due? Different specimens of phosphorus differ widely in respect to this property, and it was perhaps connected with some want of homogeneity in the substance. The phosphorus experimented on was generally colourless. It was a curious circumstance that yellow phosphorus cuts off the extreme red ray—this being the opposite of what yellow bodies usually did, and was remarkable also in

connection with the red modification of phosphorus. THE FIXED LINES OF THE SOLAR SPECTRUM.

Dr. GLADSTONE read some observations "On the Fixed Lines of the Solar Spectrum." The author exhibited three maps, the first representing the fixed dark bands and lines in the extreme red portion of the spectrum, the second those in the extreme lavender rays, and the third those which make their appearance about the orange and yellow portion when the sun is close to the horizon, as described by Sir David Brewster. A long span of atmosphere absorbs also the more refrangible rays, but affects in no way the angular position of these lines. The moon's light shows exactly the same

lines as the sunlight, and the dark bands in the orange and yellow equally appear when it traverses much air. That portion of the spectrum which with sunlight appears violet, has a lavender or even grey colour with moon-light. Attempts had been made to determine whether those lines were entirely due to the absorbent effect of the earth's atmosphere, by observations of stars, and of distant artificial lights, but the author thought without a conclusive result. The light from the edge of the sun's disc has just the same lines as that from the centre.

SECTION D.

Professor OWEN read a paper, prepared by Mr. G. H. Lewis, entitled "The Spinal Chord a Sensational and Volitional Centre." The spinal chord, the author stated, was formerly believed to be nothing but a great nerve-trunk; and even now its functions have been limited to the transmission and reflexion of impressions. It can conduct impressions to the sensorium and reflect them on the motor nerves, producing muscular contraction; but this is all that physiologists are willing to allow. Doubts having long rested on his mind upon this point, he had made a series of experience that the had lead him to alone. ments which had led him to a clear conviction; and that conviction and the experimental evidence upon which it was formed, he had embodied in the paper. Before detailing the evidence for the sensorial functions of the chord (the paper continued)-it will be necessary to fix on some broad and palpable signs, such as unequivocally indicate the presence of volition. We have such signs in spontaneity of actions, and choice of actions. It will scarcely be disputed that an animal manifests volition—and its act is voluntary—when the act occurs spontaneously. By "spontaneously," I mean prompted by some inward impulse, and not excited by an outward stimulus. Spontaneity and choice are two palpable characteristics of sensation and volition, and it is these we must seek in our experiments. Those who for the first time perform, or witness, experiments on decapitated animals find it very difficult to believe that the animals have no sensation; but their doubts are generally settled by a reference to the admitted hypothesis of the brain being the exclusive seat of consciousness. On the strength of this hypothesis the striking facts recorded by Legallois, Prochaska, Volkmann, and others, have been explained as simple cases of the reflex action of the chord. Against this hypothesis of the brain being the exclusive seat of concinences. sciousness, I have for some years gathered increasing strength of conviction, preferring the hypothesis of the sensorium being co-extensive with whole of the nervous centres; and I have been able, by experiment, to constitute three separate and entirely independent seats of consciousness in the same animal. From the mass of evidence furnished by experiments, all bearing on the same point, the sensational function of the chord acquires in my mind the force almost of a demonacquires in my mind the force almost of a demonstrated truth. From that mass, a few cardinal cases may be selected. If they do not carry conviction, there can be little hope in any accumulation of such cases. Place a child of two or three years old on his back, and tickle his right cheek with a feather, he will probably first move his head aside, and then, on the tickling being continued, he will raise his right hand, push away the feather, and rub the tickled spot. So long as his right hand remains free, he will never use the left hand when the right cheek is tickled, or vice versā. But if you hold his right hand, he will rub with the left. The voluntary character of these actions is indisputable, in spite of their uniformity; they are putable, in spite of their uniformity; they are prompted by sensation, and determined by voli-Let us now contrast the action of the tion. Let us now contrast the action of the sleeping child, under similar circumstances, and we shall find them to be precisely similar. Children sleep more soundly than adults, and seem to be more sensitive in sleep. I tickled the right nostril of a three-year old boy. He at once raised the left hand. I then softly drew both

arms down, and laid them close to the body, emarms down, and that them close to the body, and placing bedding the left arm in the clothes, and placing on it a pillow, by gentle pressure on which I could keep the arm down without awakening him. Having done this I tickled his left nostril. He at once began to move the imprisoned arm, but could not reach his face with it, because I held it firmly though gently down. He now drew his head aside, and I continued tickling, whereupon he raised the right hand, and with it rubbed the left nostril, an action he never performed when the left hand was free. The simple and ingethe left hand was free. The simple and ingenious experiment of Pflüger establishes one important point, namely, that the so-called reflex actions in sleep are not accompanied by sensation and volition. The sleeping child behaves precisely as the waking child behaves, except that his actions are less energetic; and we are forced to assume the presence of dim cerebral consciousness to escape the conclusion that the spinal chord is also a seat of consciousness. The actions of the sleeping and the waking child are so similar that both must be credited with sen-sation and volition (and if not both then neither must be so credited); in like manner I shall show that the actions of animals before and after decapitation exhibit no more difference, as respects sensibility, than the actions of the waking and the sleeping child; so that here again, unless both actions are credited with sensation and volition, neither of them can put in a claim. Experi-ment leads decisively to this alternative, namely, either animals are unconscious machines either animals are unconscious machines; or deca-pitated animals manifest sensibility and will. [Having detailed a series of experiments with a water newt, to show that the animal's actions were precisely the same before and after decapitation, and arguing that they displayed spontaneity of action—
the paper proceeded:—After allowing a quarter of
an hour to elapse, in order to a more complete reinstatement of vigour, I touched the flank as before,
with acetic acid. The movements at first were with acetic acid. The movements at first were very disorderly. It ran about in great uneasiness, just as it had done before its head was off. In vain I waited for it to rub itself against the side of the box, it curled itself up, and seemed about todie. Some time afterwards I again touched it with the acid; it again became disorderly, and I then pushed it towards the side of the box; but itthen pushed it towards the side of the box; but it did not move until I pushed it slowly forwards so that its flank might come in contact with the wood: this succeeded, this seemed to supply the very remedy it wanted, for it continued crawling slowly and with intervals of rest, its body curved outwards so as to continue in contact with the wood, and its hind leg pressed close to the tail, and thus, as before, it rubbed away the acid. There are two points noticeable here: first, the readiness with which a sensation of contact suggested a means of relief; secondly, that this was the only newt which, in my experiments, ever hit upon this plan, and this one did so as well without its head as with it. The repetition of the act precludes the idea of its being an accident. unnecessary to trespass on your time by citing the observations of numerous physiologists testifying to the spontaneity of decapitated animals. will all remember such cases. I divided the chord of a newt between the fifth and sixth cervical vertebræ. The convulsions which followed were almost as severe as those which follow decapita amoust as severe as those which notwo deaphation; but in this case it was the forelegs which were tetanic, and the hind legs pressed close to the body. After a few minutes it tried to rise, but failed. Bubbles of carbonic acid were constantly expired. After fifteen minutes it turned completely round, and crawled five steps forward, dragging the hinder segment after it like a log, the hinder legs not moving at all. This was repeated several times. In fifteen minutes more sensibility was detected in the hinder segment. Here was a was detected in the finder segment. Here was a case which would have been pronounced very simple. Division of the chord had seemingly destroyed all power of voluntary movement in the limbs below the section. The hind legs seemed paralysed. When the anterior segment was irritated, the animal crawled away dragging the motionless posterior segment after it. When this posterior segment was irritated, the animal did

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not crawl, but simply withdrew the limb or tail. If I touched the tail or hinder leg with acetic acid, the whole of the posterior segment (in which volition was said to be destroyed) began to move, and the legs set up the crawling action, attempting to push the whole body forward, which could not be effected, because the anterior segment was perfectly motionless. The hind legs, which never moved when the anterior segment was irritated, moved now in obedience to the spinal volition; and the anterior segment, which before seemed so energetic in its voluntary movements, was now perfectly unmoved. Each centre rules its own segment. If the motionlessness of the hind legs when the animal crawled is a proof that voluntary power was destroyed in those legs, the motionless-ness of the fore legs when the hind legs moved is equally a proof that voluntary power is destroyed in the fore legs. The real truth seems to be that each segment has its own volitional centre, and that the one is never affected by the other. I have at this moment a newt with the chord divided near the centre of the back. The operation was performed four days ago, and the animal has so far recovered from it that no spectator could distinguish between the voluntary power of its two segments. When the flame of a wax match is brought near the cerebral segment the fore legs set to work, and the animal crawls away, dragging the hinder segment along. When the flame is brought near the spinal segment, the hind legs set to work, and the body moves sideways, the anterior segment remaining perfectly quiescent. All other stimuli produce similar results. I venture to submit that the explanation here proposed of two independent volitional centres is far more consistent with the phenomena than the explanation offered by the reflex theory, unless the actions of the posterior segment of the newt are evidences of sensation and volition, I know of no kind of evidence for the existence of such properties in the cerebral segment. . . . I will not occupy the attention of this meeting with the recital of other experiments. Those already cited suffice to indicate the nature of the evidence on which I found my positions. And indeed I might rest on one simple fact as proof that the spinal chord is a sensational centre, namely, the fact that whenever sensibility is de-stroyed all actions cease to be co-ordinated. Every one present knows how greatly our muscular sensibility aids us in the performance of actions; but it has apparently been forgotten that if sensibility be destroyed in a limb, by section of the posterior roots which supply that limb, the power of movement will be retained so long as the anterior roots are intact; but the power of co-ordinated movement will be altogether destroyed. With diminishing sensibility we see diminishing power of co-ordination, the movements become less and le orderly; and with the destruction of sensibility the movements cease to have their co-ordinated harmony. Now in the cases I have cited it is clear that this power of co-ordinating movements—sometimes -was nearly, if not quite, very complex movementsperfect in the decapitated animal; therefore if co-ordination implies sensibility, the conclusion seems nevitable that the spinal chord is a centre of sensibility. The whole case may be summed up thus:—1st. Positive evidence proves that in decapitated animals the actions are truly sensorial. 2nd. Positive evidence, on the other hand, shows that in human beings with injured spines the actions are not sensorial, but reflex. 3rd. But as the whole science of physiology presupposes that between vertebrate animals there is such a general concordance, that whatever is demonstrable of the organs in one animal will be true of similar organs in another; and inasmuch as it is barely conceivable that the spinal chord of a frog, a pigeon, and a rabbit should have a sensorial function, while that of man has none, we must conclude that the seeming contradiction afforded by human pathology admits of reconcilement. No fact really invalidates any other fact. If the animal is such an organany other fact. If the animal is such an organ-ised machine that an external impression will produce the same actions as would have been pro-duced by sensation and volition, we have abso-lutely as ground for believing in the sensibility

of animals at all; and we may as well accept the bold hypothesis of Descartes that they are mere automata. If the frog is so organised that when he cannot defend himself in one way, the internal mechanism will set going several other ways; if he can perform, unconsciously, all those actions which he performs consciously, it is surely superfluous to assign any consciousness at all. His organism may be called a self-adjusting mechanism, in which consciousness finds no more room than in the mechanism of a watch.

The CHAIRMAN said the paper was most valuable, but he thought the experiments might be claimed for reflex action almost as much as in favour of the theory of Mr. Lewes.

Mr. Nunneley said that the paper asserted too broadly that it had been held that sensation and volition were suspended in sleep. The person who talked in sleep and the sleep-walker both disproved the assumption of entire suspension. He had himself removed the spinal marrow of cats and rabbits, and they had lived and moved for eight hours afterwards. If they departed from the position that volition was resident in the higher masses of the spinal marrow, they must go further, and maintain that it existed in different parts of the body; and that would lead them back to the opinion of the earlier anatomists, that the nervous system was not essential to vitality.

After a few words from Mr. S. Hey, Professor Owen, in reply, directed attention to the comparative largeness of the 'human brain and the smallness of the spinal column of man, as compared with those of the animals experimented upon, and said it might be that there were some sensations felt by the lower animals which are not experienced by human beings; and if the inquiry were pursued, with this idea kept in view, they might be able to reconcile what now appeared to be conflicting.

Section F.—On some of the Results of the Society of Arts' Examinations.

By JOHN POPE HENNESSY, of the Inner Temple. The system of examination established by the Society of Arts is well known. I do not purpose referring to it further than to remark that it is intended to operate among the working classes; that no students of any of the learned professions, no graduates or undergraduates of any university, no certificated schoolmasters or pupil teachers are eligible for examination. Nor is any one qualified to present himself as a candidate who is not a member of, or a student of a class in, one of the many institutes in all parts of the United Kingdom in union with the Society of Arts. In this way it becomes a test of the influence of instituway it becomes a test of the innuence of institu-tional education. In fact, it is the only direct and unequivocal test of that valuable class of education which we possess. Statistics of an interesting and useful kind have at various times been published with reference to the primary education of the working classes. Such statistical tables, however, referred to the period of school life; to the number of years spent at school and age at which children left school. The results of the Society of Arts' examinations furnish a new class of educational facts. They deal with persons who have left the school for the workshop. They enable us to estimate the relative effects of different periods of school life. They enable us to estimate the effect which early removal from school has on that portion of the removal from school has on that portion of the working population with which the system deals. In one of the printed forms of inquiry which each candidate at the final portion of the late examination was requested to fill up, the following questions were asked:—"How many years were you at school?" "How many years have elapsed since your leaving school?" One thousand one hundred agree condidate were examined this hundred and seven candidates were examined this year, but as some were rejected at the preliminary examination, as others did not offer themselves for the final examination, and as some of the forms, as far as the mere educational statistics were concerned, were imperfectly filled, not more than three hundred and ten supplied the requisite information. The Council of the Society of Arts have kindly placed at my disposal all the docu-

ments referring to the examination. Neither the Council, however, nor any of the officers of the Society are answerable either for the statements of fact or the expressions of opinion which this paper contains. The first result at which I arrived was that the average period of the echoel life of the candidates was under that usually regarded by educationists as the normal and necessary period. Some of the ablest and most practical of Her Majesty's Inspectors of School have asserted that the normal period of school life is twelve years. Other educationists have estimated this period at nine or ten years; that being in fact the average duration of school life on the Continent—in Bavaria, Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, and many other countries. It will be seen, from the following table, that the great majority of the candidates were at school for a much shorter period:—

The average period was therefore 6.016 years or less than 6 years and 6 days. Although this Although this period is much less than that which we are told should be the minimum duration of school life nevertheless it is somewhat over the average in this country. Mr. Horace Mann proves that the average school time of all the children in England and Wales is, as nearly as possible, 5 years. At the Educational Conference held last year in London, this fact was spoken of as one of the most disheartening kind. That children should only be five years at school was regarded as an evil of the greatest magnitude. Some of the distinguished educationists present at the Conference did not hesitate to accuse the employers of labour with destroying the intellect of the working classes, and with preventing all mental im-provement amongst the people by drawing the children from school, when they had only spent five years, on an average, under the care of a schoolmaster. Similar remarks have been made in Parliament. It has been in fact assumed almost universally, that in five years little or nothing of any practical value could be treated. These theorems and present a strength of the product learned. I have, therefore, paid particular attention to this period, with reference to the results of the Society of Arts' examinations. The conclusions to which I have arrived are precisely the reverse of those which, on theoretical grounds, and from the general tone of educationists, we and from the general tone of educationists, we would have anticipated. Taking all the candidates who only attended at school for 5 years, 4 years, 3 years, 2 years, 1 year, or less than one year, and calling them Class I.; and taking all the candidates who attended school for 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 14 years and calling them Class II., find that 120 candidates have to Class I and I find that 129 candidates belong to Class I., and that 181 candidates are included in Class II. These candidates were each examined in a certain number of subjects, chosen from a specified list of 25 different branches of science and literature. There were therefore 25 candidates who obtained highest places; and 14 of these 25 were awarded 1st prizes. I find that the highest places in 15 subjects were obtained by the candidates in Class I. That is, those who had attended school only five years or under, carried off two-thirds of the first places. Of the fourteen 1st prizes eight were taken by candidates in the 1st class; and only six were left for those who had spent six years or more at school. In estimating the practical value of this result it is necessary to remember that Class I. was numerically smaller than Class II.; the two classes being in the proportion of seven to ten. Such a result shows that the influence of Institutional Education is much greater than educationists imagine, and that it is an admirable substitute for prolonged school-life.

ON THE FINANCIAL PROSPECTS OF BRITISH RAILWAYS.

Mr. S. Brown read a paper on railways, showing their financial prospects. He first gave a summary 1858.

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of the leading facts showing the extension and present position of the railway system of the country. In doing so he confined himself principally to the reports presented by Captain Galton to the Board of Trade, which reports bring down the information to the end of 1856. He also quoted from a parliamentary document which has recently appeared, showing that the total amount of capital and loans for railways in the United Kingdom, authorised by acts of parliament previous to 31st December, 1857, was 387,051,7351. Previous to the year 1857, 281,114,1521. was authorised to be raised by shares, and 96, 458,7731. by loans. On the 31st of December last:

Dividend on Interest

Dividend on Interest Capital raised, in 1857

Total..... 315,157,258 12,338,586 3.915 The companies then retained power to raise 72,194,678l by existing shares, by new shares, and by loans. 283,957,225l was the amount stated to be expended on the construction of railway works. The length of line open for traffic on 31st December last was 9447 miles (2681 miles single, and 6356 double lines); 993 miles of rail-road were being constructed at the end of the year, and 3554 miles of line were authorised, but not then commenced. The total length of lines for which companies had obtained powers prior to 31st December, 1857, was stated at 13,562. In reference to the important consideration of the share capital, Mr. Brown remarked that it was evident that whatever the state of the money market, the lowest rate of interest for the time being would always be upon those investments which afforded the largest margin for the certain payment of the interest and the repayment of the principal at the periods agreed on. Of 308,775,894. which was the total amount of money raised up to the end of 1856, for the construction of railways, 77,359,4191., or 25 per cent., formed, in the shape 17,003, 1782, of 25 per cent, formed, in the single of loans, a first charge on the profits of the companies. At the end of 1857, 78,406,2871. out of 315,157,2601., or 24.88 per cent. was similarly advanced. The total profits from all railways in 1856 appeared to have been 12,277,7121., and the interest upon debentures and loans 3,607,0721.; thus leaving a margin of 8,670,6401., or 70.62 per cent. of net profits, to secure the punctual payment of this interest. Under such circumstances, what could be the cause that the average rate of interest on loans so secured should be as high as 4.66 per cent. in 1856, and that in the most unfavourable year, 1853, it never fell below an average of 4.14 per rent. ? What, again, could be the cause that the rate of interest on these securities had gone on increasing in successive years till 1856, though the rate of interest on ordinary share capital had scarcely at all diminished? In 1857 it was true scarcely at all diminished? In 1937 it was true the rate of interest on this class of securities seemed considerably less, but it was still 4.133 per cent., whilst the rate of dividend on ordinary share capital had increased to 3.579 per cent. Looking at the very large surplus which remained, and the ample security thereby afforded for punctual payment of the interest, there seemed no reason to doubt that such loans should be considered nearly equal to government securities. A suggestion had been recently made that all such bonds and obligations should be made payable to bonds and congations should be made payable to the bearer, and transmissible from hard to hand without expense or trouble. The suggestion was well worthy of notice, and the effect would be, no doubt, to diminish the rate of interest at which such advances were made, and ultimately this class of loans would probably not differ much in value, nor fluctuate much more in market price than the public funds. A difference of half per cent. interest on the existing loans of 78,000,000l. would amount to 390,0001. per annum—no mean advantage to the ordinary shareholder. Passing to the question of the preference shares, Mr. Brown pointed out that in 1857, if there had been no preference shareholders, but all had shared alike, the average dividend would have been

3.843 per cent. The truth was, that the raising of money, either by debentures or preference shares, was a false system, and always acted prejudicially to the ordinary shareholders, unless their annual dividends amounted to at least the same rate per cent. on their capital as they had to give on debentures or preference shares. After remarking upon the questions of the reduction of the working expenses of railways, the increase of traffic receipts (which, notwithstanding periods of commercial depression, had made steady progress for several years), Mr. Brown said that some of the evils from which railway shareholders were now suffering, though recognised, could not be remedied. Mr. Stephenson computed that no less than 14,000,000. had been spent in law proceedings. Yet for all this, if the loan, preference, and ordinary share capital same rate per cent. on their capital as they had to spent in law proceedings. Yet for all this, if the loan, preference, and ordinary share capital were considered as one interest, the results, though falling far short of the expectations entertained, gave no occasion to despair of the future. A net profit of 12, 338, 586l. in 1857 on a capital paid up of 315, 157, 258l. (share and loan) yielded 3.915 per cent., and was a fair vantage ground for further progress. With a diminution in the rate of interest when the debenture and preference share capital was better understood, under improved management; with a revision and a reduction in some of the various sources of expenditure; with constantly augmenting traffic receipts; with a cessation of the fatal and senseless competition which had so long prevailed; with a tribunal for arbitration which would save both legal expenses and the reckless opposition of the companies among each other; with more regard to the convenience of the public in the arrangement of the trains; with more attention to the comfort of third-class passengers; and with some system to check the construction of unnecessary lines, and to develop the commerce of districts by officials thoroughly versed in the resources they afforded, there could be no reason for railway shareholders to give way to despondency, but rather to look with pride and satisfaction on a branch of committee the country of t prace and satisfaction on a branch of commercial enterprise, the capital embarked in which fell little short of 400,000,000*l*. sterling, and of which the net profits on the amount paid up exceeded last year half the interest upon the permanent National Debt.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRO-MOTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE.

This association was constituted at Birmingham about this time last year under the presidency of about this time last year under the presidency of Lord Brougham, under circumstances which gave promise of future success. Its special object was then stated to be "to form a point of union among social reformers, so as to afford those engaged in all the various efforts now happily begun for the improvement of the people an opportunity of considering social economics as a whole." Following sidering social economics as a whole." Following the plan of older associations, it is migratory in its character, and Liverpool has had the honour of welcoming it on this the first anniversary of its birthday. Lord John Russell is the president of the year; and among the noblemen and gentlemen who have taken part in the proceedings have been Lord Brougham, the Earl of Shaftesbury, Sir J. who have taken part in the proceedings have been Lord Brougham, the Earl of Shaftesbury, Sir J. Pakington, Lord Sandon, Lord Ebrington, Sir James Stephen, K.C.B., Mr. R. M. Milnes, M.P., the Bishops of Chester, Manchester, and Pennsylvania; Sir A. Elton, M.P., Mr. S. Whithread, M.P., Mr. T. Barnard, M.P., the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, Mr. E. Akroyd, M.P., the Hon. and Rev. W. H. Lyttelton, the Rev. Canon Girdlestone, Mr. Serjeant Woolrych, Mr. Horace Mann, Mr. Jellinger Symons, Professor Pillans, Mr. H. J. Smith, Rev. Dr. Begg, Sir C. H. Hastings, Rev. J. G. Lonsdale, Rev. D. Melville, Mr. Garnett, M.P., Mr. Ayrton, M.P., Mr. Adderley, M.P., Archdeacon Allen, Mr. J. A. Smith, jun, Mr. H. G. Bohn, Mr. J. P. Gassiot, and others.

The proceedings commenced on Monday by a private meeting of the Council in the library of St. George's Hall. In the afternoon there was a special service in St. Nicholas Church—the most ancient ecclesiastical edifice in the town—when prayers were read by the rector, and an appro-

prayers were read by the rector, and an appro-

priate sermon was preached by the Bishop of Chester. The first general meeting was held in the evening. The noble hall, which is capable of accommodating 3000 people, was crowded in every part, a good sprinkling of the audience consisting of ladies. All the distinguished visitors whose names we have given above were present.

Lord J. Russell presided, and delivered the inaugural address, a document of great ability. In it the noble lord stated that the departments into which the business of the Association was divided

which the business of the Association was divided were:—1. Jurisprudence and Amendment of the Law; 2. Education; 3. Punishment and Reforma-tion; 4. Public Health; 5. Social Economy. The noble lord discoursed with much power upon each of these branches, with the object ascertaining the present position of each, and of fixing the points from which the Association in the prosecution of its labours might take a fresh

The Earl of Shaftesbury proposed and Sir John Pakington seconded the first resolution, which was carried unanimously :-

"That the thanks of the National Association be given to the Right Honourable Lord Brougham for his services as founder and first president of this Association."

Lord Brougham having made a feeling and dignified reply, the Earl of Carlisle moved and Sir J K Superpropagate accorded the Sir J. K. SHUTTLEWORTH seconded the next resolution, which was also carried unanimously:— "That the thanks of the meeting be given to Lord John ussell for the address which he has just delivered."

The compliment was eloquently acknowledged by the noble lord, and immediately afterwards the meeting separated.

Tuesday's proceedings were opened by the fulfil-ment of Lord Brougham's promise to deliver an address on "Popular Literature." The elegant concert-room of St. George's Hall was crowded concert-room of St. George's Hall was crowded long before the hour appointed, and, as on the previous evening, the ladies formed a large proportion of the audience. At 11 o'clock his Lordship, accompanied by the principal members of the Association and the distinguished visitors whose names we have given above, made his appearance on the platform, and delivered the following address:

following address: "It is an unspeakable relief to those who under-take the discussion of matters connected with the progress of improvement that they are no longer called upon to demonstrate the fundamental propositions a few years ago the subject of controversy, and especially the expediency, including of course the safety, of diffusing knowledge of every description among all classes of the people. The days have long gone by when it was deemed ne-cessary for the peace of society, first that learning in general, then that at any rate political science, should be confined to the upper orders of the community, as if the humbler ranks were either in-capable of comprehending it or unfit to be intrusted with it. Assuredly it would not be easy now even for those enemies of progress to draw this line, those who ground their political creed upon their religious feelings, when they call to mind the grand diversity between our pure belief and the false systems which it happily supplanted, the distinction, that above every other, marks its infinite superiority, and proclaims its divine origin. The heathens, even the wiser among them, took the same distinction between the various classes of the community which the adversaries of popular improvement have been wont to saries of popular improvement have been wont to take among ourselves. Holding immortality in considerable doubt, of one thing they were quite clear—that it would only be granted to souls of a higher order—'Si quis priorum manibus locus; si ut sapientibus placet non cum corpore extinguuntur magnæ animæ'—says Tacitus. 'But, no,' says Cowper, the Christian poet and sage,

"'But no! the silver trumpet's heavenly call Sounds for the poor; it sounds alike for all."

All such distinctions have been swept away by the same Gospel which brought life and immortality to light, and the soul of the meanest capacity, of the humblest of His creatures, is as precious as that of the scale in the capacity of the results of His creatures, is as precious as that of the exalted in the eyes of Him without whose will a sparrow falls not to the ground. From all doubts and all refinements of caste, therefore, we are now happily relieved, and the word having gone forth, irrevocable, that the people shall be taught, we are only left to consider what is the best, because the most effectual mode of teaching. The course pursued with this object in view during the last 30 or 40 years has been to regard selfeducation as the great instrument, and therefore reading as the principal means, of learning, with the help of such oral instruction as can be ob-tained through lectures. But, as individual or private reading forms the bulk of the process, everything was admitted to depend upon affording easy access to works of an instructive kind, and at the same time of a nature to attract readers. When 35 years ago, I addressed the working classes and their employers in a tract (of which the 23rd edition lies before me), pointing out the advantages as well as the duty of extending their information, I announced the step about to be taken of establishing an association, of which the main objects should be the preparing and publishing of works to help self-education. The Useful Knowledge to help self-education. The Useful Knowledge Society was accordingly formed, and its labours were entirely successful. The price of books, maps, and prints was reduced exceedingly, and a plentiful supply was provided of treatises upon all branches of science at a very low price, and com-posed in a manner so simple and clear as to convey the required instruction without the help of a teacher, to such as really desired it, and would take the trouble of obtaining it. But a variety of other works was likewise produced, the object of which was to afford instruction in an entertaining or amusing form; and the great circulation immediately obtained by our works of these kinds proved that our endeavours had been attended with success. But we next saw that a much wider scope could be given to our operations, and that classes whom our larger publications did not reach might be induced to improve themselves by read-Hence arose the Penny Magazine, the happy suggestion of that eminent philanthropist Mr. Hill, now Recorder of Birmingham and Commissioner in Bankruptcy. The low price, the admirable woodcuts, the judicious selection of subjects, at once instructive and entertaining, speedily obtained for the paper a circulation till then unprecedented, for at one time 220,000 were sold weekly. The sale, indeed, may be supposed enormous when sixty guineas could be afforded for one plate, the impression form which with for one plate, the impression from which, with two or three others less fine, and eight pages of letterpress, was sold for a penny to the public, consequently much less to the retail dealer. It remained for others engaged in the same good work of promoting the improvement of the people to carry this plan a step further, but a most important step, by preparing cheap periodical papers containing such proportion of works of fiction as should attract persons wholly bent upon enter-tainment, and reading without any direct view to tainment, and reading without any direct view to obtain useful knowledge. The society's works, even the *Penny Magazine*, had never admitted writings of this descriptions, except occasionally a few lines of poetry. Now, it had been found to be quite certain that a vast proportion of readers regarded narrative as alone interesting, and hence history, and especially biography, had been largely introduced into our publications; but it became also apparent that imaginary adventures. became also apparent that imaginary adventures, scenes rarely or never exhibited in real life, lively descriptions of both persons and things removed from common observation,-in a word, stories, whether of a romantic or of a mere ordinary character, would fix the attention which the most interesting realities had failed to arrest, and that thousands would read tales whom nothing else would tempt to take up a book. Nor is this taste confined to the humbler classes of the community. Very many of their petiers and difficulty be got to read any statement of facts beyond a paragraph in a newspaper. But it is undeniable that the remark applies particularly to the great numbers who have never acquired the habit of reading, and who are most averse to any such interruption of their other pursuits, or any terference with their rest and relaxation. It is to this class that such works as the *Penny Magazine*, and also papers in part at least devoted to works

of fiction, are principally addressed,—to those who from their vocations have but little spare time which they can employ in reading, their hours of relaxation being apt to be spent either in rest, or in games, or in dissipation. It is to find employment in reading for these hours, and to provide such works as may most powerfully interest, that the greatest efforts have been made; and experience has proved decisively that a considerable part of such works must consist of stories—accordingly penny papers, published weekly, with good cuts, have been supplied, one part of the letter-press being stories, the rest historical or biographical sketches, and information in a popular form upon subjects of science and art. The greatest care is taken to exclude from the narratives and the descriptions everything that can by possibility either inflame the passions, or trench in the least degree upon religious and moral principle. But that is only a negative merit. The object of the whole, both negative ment. The object of the whole, both narrative and descriptive, is to cherish feelings of a virtuous and amiable kind; to inculcate the purest moral principles, and to further a spirit of piety and devotion, and more by the actions and the scenes represented than by mere advice and reflections. Of one individual, John Cassell, who has taken a leading nather perhaps the most has taken a leading part—perhaps the most prominent part—in these important proceedings, t is fit to mention the name, because he was himself a working-man, who rose by his industry from a most humble station, has constantly lived with the working classes, and has the most complete knowledge of their habits and their tastes from daily unreserved intercourse with them. The variety of the works which he has prepared and published is very great, and their circulation extraordinary. The prices which he gives to secure the best assistance of literary were and of artists do the greatest and it to be men and of artists do the greatest credit to his men and or arrists do the greatest credit to his liberality, but also to his good sense, as his re-markable success proves. He has indeed even given considerable sums by way of premium for the production of works by competition; in some cases as much as 100*l*. or 200*l*. It would be endless to enumerate the various works which he and several others have brought out upon this plan. The most widely circulated are the London Journal, which sells 350,000; Cassell's Family Paper, illustrated, 285,000; Popular History of England, 100,000. One very remarkable publication of this class is the literature by working men, or essays on every variety of subject, by working men, proving undeniably the benefits which they have derived from their studies—and also proving that they have not been distracted for an hour from their daily toil. That these works have encouraged a taste for reading among thousands who never before read, and have afforded the means of gratifying it, cannot be denied. We used to reckon that the *Penny Magazine*, at its highest circulation, had nearly 1,000,000 of readers. According to this estimate, some of these weekly papers must have twice as many. An opinion has, how-ever, of late gone forth that all the labours of the Useful Knowledge Society and their followers and allies have ended in an entire failure; that no success has attended their efforts to raise the character and improve the habits of the people by increasing the supply of their intellectual food, and bettering its quality. There-fore, the grounds of this opinion deserve to be examined. But it must be premised that the examined. But it must be premised that the patrons of this doctrine wear a somewhat sus-picious aspect, and look in some sort as if they were the enemies in disguise of all progress. For, though they affect only to dislike the means employed, confining in words their objections to the execution of the works actually provided for the people, it turns out that there is no pleasing them, and if the works are ever so much changed the same difficulty, the same disapproval recurs. that it should seem to be the end they dislike, not the means; and they really appear to be of the class which we had hoped and believed was extinct, and that we have fallen upon specimens of those lost races which peopled a former world, the ancient opponents of all popular progress, though wrapped up in mere modern integuments.

All we can do for dispelling the delusion attempted to be propagated is to consider both the fact of what has been effected, and the manifest tendency of what is still continuing to be done. The first objection which meets us we must needs advert to, that it may at once be removed; for it stops the way, and obstructs all improvement The information conveyed in the manner before described is admitted to be of a limited and imperfect kind; the subjects treated or referred to periect kind; the subjects treated or reterred to cannot be fully handled; the instructions given must of necessity be partial or introductory only. Many readers will go no farther, and therefore by them a very searty knowledge is acquired. Now, bestowing this is described by the objectors as encouraging superficial acquirements, and the old argument, not very correctly put forward in a great poet's verse, is repeated in prose, not much more incorrect, though less harmonious. But when it is said or sung harmonious. But when it is said or sung that 'a little learning is a dangerous thing,' we can see no harm in adding, that there is another thing somewhat more dangerous—great ignorance; not to mention that the one cures itself, while the other perpetuates itself—ay, and spreads and propagates too; for it is almost as true in point of fact that they who have learned a little have their half-satisfied curiosity excited to obtain more full gratification, as it is false in point of fact that sobriety results from excess of drinking. We object, therefore, to this hackneyed maxim, not because it is hackneyed, but because it is more than the property of the founded; as illogical when delivered in plain prose as inapposite when clothed in humorous verse—the falsehood of the position in the one case being equal to that of the metaphor in the other. 'Better half a-loaf than no bread' is the old English saying. 'All wrong,' say the objectors, 'A little food is a dangerous thing; rather starve than not have your fill.' 'Better be purblind than stone blind,' is the French saying. 'No,' cry the objectors, 'fi you can't see quite clearly, what use is there in seeing at all?' 'In the country of the blind,' says the proposely. founded; as illogical when delivered in plain 'In the country of the blind,' says the 'the one-eyed man is king.' Our objectors belonging to the people there would dethrone the monarch by putting out his eye, But they had better couch their blind brethren to restore their sight, and then his reign would cease at once without any act of violence, any coup d'état. Here is a well of precious water, and we have got a little of it in a tankard. 'What signifies,' say a little of it in a tankard. 'What signifies,' say the objectors, 'such a paltry supply? It would not wet the lips of half-a-dozen of the hundreds who are athirst.' True, but it enables us to wet the sucker of the pump, instead of following their advice to leave it dry; and, having the handle, we use it to empty the well and satisfy all. A person gains some information, it may be only a little. Say the objectors, 'he is supericial.' Would he be more profound if he knew nothing? The twilight is unsafe for his steps. Would he be more secure from slipping in the dark? But he may be self-sufficient, may think he knows much, and look down upon others as he knows much, and look down upon others as knowing little. Is this very likely to happen if the knowledge he has acquired is within reach of all and by the greater number possessed? The distinction is the ground of the supposed influence upon his demeanour towards others; when that difference no longer exists the risk of his manners being spoiled is at an end. The most trifling instruction which can be given is sure to teach the vast majority of those who receive it the lesson of their own deficiency, and to inspire the wish for further knowledge. But suppose, as must happen further knowledge. But suppose, as must happen in many cases, that no great progress shall be afterwards made, at least it is certain that the proportion is most inconsiderable of those who are not the better for what they have learned, and of those who are the worse for it the number cannot really be said to have any existence at all. It must always be kept in mind that there are two descriptions of persons to whom popular literature is addressed, and who may in differ-ent ways profit by it—those who from their natural capacity and natural inclination, as well as from possessing a certain leisure, can so far improve themselves as to become really accomplished in

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the branches of knowledge which they study, and the great bulk of the community who can never go beyond giving a very moderate attention to books, can in fact read but very little. Let us first consider the former class, which, though small compared with the mass, is yet again divided into two, those of ordinary talents, but anxious to learn, and those whose thirst for knowledge is not only very great, but accompanied with capacity to excel, possibly even with original genius. Bath classes benefit incalculably by the helps which popular literature extends to them. Their love of knowledge is both excited and gratified, love of knowledge is both excited and gratified, and let us observe their progress. The different works which are prepared encourage and enable them to proceed. At first they are attracted by some tale or anecdote, or biographical account. Som after they find in the same paper a popular exposition of a subject in science or literature. This inclines them to go further, and the treatises incline the the Usefal Knowledge Sections. furnished by the Useful Knowledge Society are tummed by the Oseriu Knowledge Society are within their reach on different subjects, suiting the line they desire to follow, and in various kinds in point of difficulty, and thus adapted to the progress they may have made, from Mr. Marcet's plain and elementary explanations up to the plain and elementary explanations up to the treatises of learned professors like those of the astronomer Royal, Sir D. Brewster, and Pro-fessor de Morgan. So great and varied are the helps afforded to students in humble life that it has been said there can be no such thing now as has been said there can be no such thing now as a self-taught person. Let us only reflect how mighty would have been the comfort to such sudents in former times could they have en-joyed such facilities. What would Franklin have given for them, who, living on a vegetable diet on purpose to save a few pence from his day's wages for the purchase of books, was fain to learn a little geometry from a treatise on navigation he had been appy enough to pick up at a bookstall, something of arithmetic by having fallen upon a copy of Cocker, and from an odd volume of the Spectator gained a notion of the style he afterwards so gained a notion of the style ne anterwards so powerfully used? What would Simpson have given for access to books, who could only get, from the accident of a pedlar passing the place where he was kept by his father working at white the was kept by his lather working at his trade of a weaver, the copy of Cocker containing a little Algebra, and even when grown up could only, by borrowing Stone's translation of L'Hopital from a friend, obtain an insight into the science of roun a friend, orbain an insight into the science of minitesimals, on which two years after he published an admirable work, while continuing to divide his time between his toil as a weaver and as a teacher? Brindley, the great engineer, was through life an uneducated man; Rannequin is said never to have learnt the alphabet; and both executed great works, but with difficulties and delays which reading would have spared them. Harrison, too, though he had received an ordinary education, yet only while working in his trade of a carpenter, became acquainted with science by some manuscript lectures of Sanderson falling in his way; and so hard did he find it to obtain adequate knowledge on the subjects connected with his mechanical pursuits, that 40 years were spent in perfecting his admirable improvements on the construction of timekeepers, and bringing them into use. It would be going too far to hold that Franklin's genius, both in physical and politi-cal science, could have done greater things had his original difficulties in self-education been removed; but we may safely affirm that both Brindley, Rannequin, and Harrison would have effected far more with the helps which their successors have had; and of Simpson no doubt can be entertained that, even amid the distractions of his trade, his short life would have been illustrated by the state of the state by far greater steps in mathematical science. For it is an entire mistake to suppose, with some of his biographers, that his genius was not original, and fitted to make great advances in his favourite that study. The late proceedings respecting Sir Isaac Newton's monument have led to ascertaining that Simpson had made the same approaches towards the modern improvement of the calculus which its illustrious inventor himself had done, but kept concealed; and no doubt can be entertained that the germ of the great discovery of Lagrange and

Laplace on the stability of the solar system, is to be found in the last and most remarkable work of Simpson. It is truly delightful to contemplate such feats of genius, so scantily aided, in a hard-working mechanic, patronised by none. But the same gratification, though certainly in a very inferior degree, arises from seeing the effects of those helps which are now afforded to the humbler classes. Instead of resorting to instances of progress in the physical and the abstract sciences, us only observe how the study of moral philosophy, in its most practical branches, has borne good fruits. There lies before me a short treatise by a working-man, popularly written, because it is addressed to his fellow-workmen in the same line of employment, with the view of removing the prevalent, but dangerous delusions on the subject of capital and wages, by explaining the true principles of economical science on this head. No principles of economical science on this head. No student of that philosophy at either of the English —nay, at any of the Scotch Universities, where it is more studied—could have produced a better reasoned tract, or one showing more entire ac-quaintance with its principles. It is the work of a common shoemaker in the midland counties, whose attention was turned to the discussion on the subject by the injuries which the strikes and combinations of his brother workmen were doing to their own interests. Nor is there any fear that his success as an author in expounding these principles will make him neglect another principle as essential to the children of industry as profiting by the means of instruction, that their first duty, as it is their highest interest, is the steady pursuit of their calling, and that their reading or writing, whether for relaxation or improvement, must be confined to the hours which that calling leaves vacant, and makes, as it were, This good young man will not go so their own. far beyond his last as to become a professional author, for he may know, and if he does not I will now tell him, what was once said by a celebrated female wit in Paris,* the mother of a far brated female with Faris, the mother of a far more celebrated person, the illustrious D'Alembert: "Woe to him who depends for his subsistence upon his pen!" By a singular coincidence with the present application of her remark, she adds, to illustrate it:—'The shoemaker is secure of his wages; the bookmaker is not secure of anything.' There may be some exaggeration in this, but that it is substantially true appears to be shown by the fact, that the greater part of authors who have no private fortune join some ordinary profession to literature. It is unnecessary to multiply examples of the beneficial effects of popular literature in training up persons even of eminence in the walks of science and of art. One may be mentioned of the latter descripart. One may be mentioned of the latter description. Among the most rising sculptors of the day, though he may not yet have obtained celebrity, is one who declares that his mind was first turned towards the fine arts by the woodcuts in the *Penny Magazine*. An affecting instance of the same good result from our labours was related by the wood of the same good result from our labours. lated by one of our colleagues, Lieutenant Drum-mond, afterwards Under-Secretary in Ireland, and inventor of the celebrated light which bears his name. When employed as Boundary Commis-sioner at Manchester, by the Government of 1832, he found, in one of the lowest abodes of misery, four families existing, rather than living, in a single room. Of these unhappy creatures one was an old woman with her grandson, a boy of ten years old, who had, from the vilest prints which alone he had seen, gained a certain taste for such things; and when the fine cuts of the Penny Magazine came out he was so delighted with their Magazine came out he was so delighted with their superiority that he and another boy, his friend, formed a partnership to join in taking a copy of the paper; he set himself to draw, and getting a few colours of the roughest kind contrived to sell his little drawings; so that Mr. Drummond found he had actually made 12s. by them, and was so much pleased with the poor lad that he recommended him to a great cotton printer, who placed him in his designing room. What became of him Drummond's death soon after

* Madame De Tencin, sister of the Cardinal Archbishop of Lyons.

prevents us from knowing; but that he throve and rose in his vocation there can be little doubt. Such is the use of those helps which make us say self-education is altogether changed. But though absolute self-education,—that is, education without any help,—is fortunately no longer to be discoursed any help,—is fortunately no longer to be discoursed of, that which with the helps afforded becomes more easy and more effectual has still all the advantages, and they are very great, of self-instruction. It gives the inestimable benefit of self-reliance; it unfolds, or at least exercises, faculties which more regular training leaves either latent or little tried; it draws forth original latent or little tried; it draws forth original genius; and confers on him who only discovers what others had found out before, all the praise, because he has all the merit of the invention; as D'Alembert, when he sighed to find in his unassisted studies how often he had been anticipated assisted studies now other he had been anticipated without knowing it, yet felt the conscious pride of his achievements, and gained, too, the more solid advantage of greatly increasing his analytical powers. A survey of the moral world, individual and social, is fitted to raise the same emotions which inspire us in casting our eyes over the solar which inspire us in casting our eyes over the solar system; the movements, the proportions, the action of attractive, repulsive, and disturbing forces, all at first sight little to be comprehended, and apparently without arrangement or plan, but all, when deeply considered and carefully compared, reducible to certain rules, and fixed, unchangeable order. As new bodies are discovered in the heavens by marking their mutual attractions with those before known, the attractions of science and of letters will disclose to the just and learned observer genius already existing, but now first drawn forth to the view. But the nebulæ occupy the largest share in both firmaments; and occupy the largest share in both firmaments; and their moral importance is unspeakably greater than that of either the more shining or the greater luminaries. The benefits are beyond all price which the bulk of the community derive from their influence, and from the assistance of popular literature ; nor can anything be more unreflecting than the doubts which have been raised of its beneficial tendency. We may begin with the broad fact of the harmless character, to say the very least, of the amusement which it affords. While we admit it to be certain that a consider-While we admit it to be certain that a considerable portion of these works is devoted chiefly to entertainments, this is certainly of an altogether innocent kind. But it has come in the place of a different class of publications. When Mr. Hill proposed the Penny Magazine, the first of the kind now so happily established in the confidence of the people, Charles Knight brought him a list of no the people, Charles Knight brought him a list of no less than nine weekly papers devoted to the circulation of the most abominable matter, morally scandalous and obscene, religiously not simply infidel, but seeffing and ribald; politically preaching anarchy, hardly even confined to the crazy dreams of socialism, but as if the editor were that boy become a man, who, when the Sovereign went to meet his parliament, had been arrested for bawling at the North in the control of the contr ing out, 'No king! no church! no lords! no com-mons! no nothing!' The Penny Magazine drove these vile publications absolutely out of existence. A most feeble progeny alone was left to succeed them; it skulked in corners, and ever since has scarcely been heard of. It was like the effect of the "Society's Almanack," which put an end to the disreputable fortune-telling tracts before published by the Stationers' Company and abandoned by them, other and rational year-books being sub-stituted in their place, perhaps immediately, cer-tainly as soon as the illustrious statesman and warrior at the head of the Government, without any application on our part, gave directions that the Society's Almanack should be used at all the public offices. But it is not only irreligious, immoral, and fraudulent publications that have been supplanted; the far less hurtful, yet by no means commendable works, which study to give the mere exciteable works, which study to give the mere excitement of horror by dealing in accounts of brutal murder and cruel seductions, and in romances abounding in such descriptions, together with ghost stories — these, once so greedily pored over, now find but little acceptation, and have ceased to be in demand. It is most satisfactory to find that the natural preference of the people is

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for the better kind of writings. At times of po-litical or religious excitement those of a worse cast may have some success, but it is temporary. for the better kind of writings. The works of Carlisle and Paine have long ceased to attract readers, the people falling back upon papers which combine harmless recreation with some instruction; and the tendency of public prosecutions to give them an interest which they had not naturally was found so manifest, that the Government has long taken the safer course of letting them alone. But it would be a great mistake to suppose that the benefits of the popular press are negative only. The tales composed for the working-men's hours of relaxation are of a kind that address themselves both to the understanding and the heart—at once giving lessons of instruction and fostering the kindly affections. Nor can anything be more groundless than the charges that have been brought against it. Two of these may be at once stated and disposed of. First, we are told that the stories given relate to persons and scenes in high life, and that none other interest the working-classes. This is certainly contrary to the fact. That these classes rotation of the fine the working-crasses. In its is certainly contrary to the fact. That these classes wish occasionally to know what passes among their superiors is quite true, yet not more true than that their superiors desire to dwell upon the actions and the sufferings of each other; but what most powerfully excites the humbler classes and most deeply imprints itself on their memory is the story of the actions and the sufferings, the good and evil fortune of their brethren and equals. They delight to dwell on the struggles of heroism, the endurance of privation, the agonies of anxiety, the resignation under sorrow, of the humbler classes, their own brothers and sisters. He who vividly, above all feelingly, pourtrays a noble heart throbbing under a fustian jacket or a cotton gown, records the tears shed for the untimely loss of the young, or the removal of the protection made habitual and venerable by the lapse of years, is sure to find eager and sympathising readers. Nor will he less awaken their minds, though to emotions of a different kind, who describes the anxious fears of conscious but undetected guilt, the ever-wakeful remorse when discovery is not dreaded, and the worthlessness to secure happiness of vicious though successful courses. Characters thus taken from humble life, and scenes laid in its haunts, most strongly rivet the attention of the working-men and their families. And wherefore Because the case may be their own. The fiction of to-day may to-morrow be the sad or the happy reality of their own lot. That the narratives and the descriptions which thus attract and thus move them are fitted to affect others as well may be safely affirmed. It is from experience, no less than from the relations of others in the higher classes, that we may describe it as impossible to read some of these stories with a dry eye. must not, however, be supposed that none of the romances, favourites of the great, are thus made conducive to the entertainment of the poor. Some of Sir W. Scott's have been given in these publications, and it is only to be wished that they had been accompanied with warnings against the perversion of history, as well as the false and indeed obsolete political opinions in which some of that great writer's tales abound. But next it is alleged that what is termed the new-it should be called the improved-literature of the people supplants more solid and more useful works, and the multitude of the readers is given as a proof of this—it is assumed—most falsely assumed—that these are withdrawn from the perusal of other publications. On the very contrary, they are added to the body of former readers, and their numbers prove it to demonstration. Take these interacts. three instances Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper began this year with a sale of 300,000, and the Family Herald issues 260,000. The London Journal is asserted to have a circulation of 500,000; but its present actual sale is from 320,000 to 350,000. What papers and other periodical works did these 800,000 purchasers take, and what did the 2,000,000 who in the whole peruse these three papers read before they were brought out? It is quite manifest that this is, if not wholly, yet in a very great proportion a clear

addition to the number of persons who formerly saved from their earnings a penny weekly, and laid it out in purchasing what would help them to pass an hour or two of rest without the weary to pass an hour or two of rest without the weary sense of unoccupied time, or the pernicious resource of drinking. The provision is only made for such as before had none. A new food has been presented to the mind. They who fancy that it comes in the place of other and more wholesome fare would have objected to the potato being cultivated, because it lessened the gains from the growth of wheat, whereas it only produced a supply for those who else were doomed. duced a supply for those who else were doomed to starve, or to linger out a feeble life on most scanty diet. Nay, the objectors may peradven-ture belong to the class which would not have the resource of foreign markets opened to us, lest the security against a famine, by giving our people access to the produce of other soils and other cli-mates, should lessen the numbers who consume that of our own. There used to be some persons nay, at one time no small number, who thus held and thus felt alarmed. The race is supposed to be long extinct; and specimens of it are be found preserved in the antiquary's collections of political curiosities, as the fossil remains of long-lost animals which once peopled our globe may be seen in the museum of the geologist. It is quite as great a delusion under which those labour who figure to themselves the promoters of popular literature as indifferent to the encouragement of more severe studies and the cultivation of profounder seience. We of the Useful Knowledge Society can well recollect that exactly the same prejudice prevailed, or if it did not, was sought to be raised against its preparation of scientific works in a cheap form, and designed to give information of the most solid and even profound description. Some of the very persons who were remunerated, and amply remunerated for their writings, derided what they called "sixpenny science," treatise once a fortnight for several years was published at that price; but by whom composed? By such mathematicians as Professor de Morgan, such natural philosophers as Sir D. Brewster, a vell as a teacher, such botanists as Professor Lindley. It was plain enough that some of those who thus complained of the treatises as not profound, could not have read one line of them from their own profound ignorance of these subjects. Contemporary with the Penny Magazine was the Penny Cyclopædia, of which it is enough to say that, so accomplished a scholar as Professor Long being the conductor, no less a mathematician than the Astronomer Royal has published in a separate form his valuable contributions to the work; papers, too, composed in so plain and popular a manner as to bring the most sublime truths of the Newtonian philosophy within the comprehension of readers very moderately acquainted with the mathematics. At the bottom of the clamour against the Useful Knowledge Society's proceedings, possibly not unconnected with the present attacks upon popular literature, was the notion that the gains of authors are lessened, the wages of literary labour reduced; an error not less glaring than that of the common workman who should object to the capital by which his labour is employed and paid being invested at low profits and quick returns. In truth, the fund out of which literary labour is paid has been very greatly which literary labour is paid has been very greatly increased by the cheap publications. Independent of the 'Cyclopædia,' the Society did not expend less than 100,000% in this way, the whole of which arose from the profits of its cheap works, which by their charter of incorporation they were bound thus to expend. When Admiral Beaufort (hydrographer of the Admiralty) was consulted on the refer it is seen to be a consulted on the refer that the consulted on the profit is the profit in the consulted on the profit is the profit in the profit in the profit in the profit is the profit in the the price of its maps, 1s. being proposed, he refused to undertake the superintendence of that department if the price were fixed higher than 6d., because he saw that this must secure circulation and profit. John Cassell and others expend large sums in like manner, and not a little in obtaining prize works by competition. But the duty on paper is a heavy burden, and goes almost altogether in diminution of the fund destined for authors. It amounted to above 7000l. yearly on the Penny Magazine when it was 3d. a pound. Had it

not been reduced to 11d. the 'Cyclopædia' must have been given up; and, even since the reduction, one of the greatest publishers pays Government between 7000l. and 8000l. a-year, the greatest part of which would be employed in paying for literary labour and plates, were the duty repealed. The exaction of this duty is among the greatest anomalies of our political administration, though it is not the only while endeavouring by every resource of negotia-tion and of force, not a little costly, to put down the foreign slave trade, we give it direct encouragement by opening our markets to slave-grown sugar, and thus also lower the price of our own free-grown produce. So, while we profess to pro-mote education, and indeed the improvement of the people in every way, and expend large sums yearly to further this great work, we raise, on the other hand, a powerful obstruction to all our operations by laying a tax upon knowledge in each one of its various departments. We progress can be in all the ways in which such expenses can be incurred, and we wilfully raise the price of every high can be used at them. We profess to encourage reading among the people, and we directly and effectually discourage it, raising the price and lowering the value of everything the read. To a certain degree, however, the people have a remedy in their own hands. Let them firmly resolve to meet the paper duty by practising a salutary economy in the use of their earnings, The tax adds to the price of what they buy to read: let them deduct as much from their other expenses, and the pressure of the tax ceases. Let them abstain from the use of fermented liquors, not at first altogether, but so far as to increase by a little the sum they pay for cheap works. They will feel themselves all the better for the change, and will be encouraged to the change, and will be encouraged. to carry it further so as to give up altogether the use of both beer and spirits. That the greatest obstacle to their improvement is also the greatest injury to their health, the worst enemy to their comfort and happiness, is undeniable; nor can there be a more natural or more appropriate manner of meeting and overcoming this adversary than to make the practice of temperance a help to knowledge, thus setting at defiance the obstinate errors of the shortsighted and inconsistent legislature, and shaming it by the wise and provident consistency of their own conduct. The successors of the *Penny Magazine*—the popular papers of the day—are accompanied, as it was, with other works of a more sustained and com-plete description, so that the reader who is attracted in the search of amusement, and finds in the same paper historical or scientific matter, is also enabled, if thereby inclined, to obtain more full information; for these works are, generally speaking, of very low prices. Thus nine papers, which may be called of entertainment, and having a joint circulation of 1,200,000 weekly, are published at 1d.; but there are also published at the same time historical and scientific workssome weekly, some monthly, some once a fortnight—at the price of 1d. 1½d., the larger ones 5d. and 7d. Casself's Illustrated History fortnight—at the price of 1d. 14d., the larger ones 5d. and 7d. Cassell's Illustrated History of England, of which 100,000 are published in penny numbers, comes already down to Charles II., and costs only 12s. His Educational Course and Popular Educator given popular and sound information on natural and moral science, the former, in a volume of nearly 600 pages, with tolerably good plates, costing under half-a-crown: and of this and other similar works the joint circulation is 300,000. similar works the joint circulation is 300,000. The *Popular History of England* of Charles Knight is of a somewhat higher price, but the plates, as well as the paper, are greatly superior, and its literary merits are of a very high order. Indeed, nothing has ever appeared superior, if anything has been published equal, to the account of the state of commerce, government, and society at different periods. In all these English histories the soundest principles are laid down in almost every instance. The interests of virtue, of liberty, and of peace, the best interests of mankind, are faithfully and ably maintained throughout, with only the exception that while the atrocities of our wars under and

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Edward are honestly denounced, there is too little blame bestowed on the expedition of Harry V., in its origin a mere scheme of plunder, though in its origin a mere scheme of plunder, though becoming, by the most unforeseen accidents, a perfectly unrighteous as well as utterly useless conquest. The number of popular works wholly roligious is very great, and their circulation vast; 17 of these have a sale of 900,000. The works of the Temperance Society circulate 300,000 weekly. It is impossible to doubt that much good is done by the works of both classes, with the help of the rious and enlightened persons whose zeal is at once nous and enlightened persons whose zeal is at once testified and rewarded by the great success of these. But it may fairly be questioned if either the cause of religion or temperance gains so much by the publication of works confined to these subjects as by the judicious proceedings of writers avowedly by the junicious proceedings of writers avowedly upon other subjects making their works, whether of narrative, of fiction, or of discussion, the vehicle of those sound doctrines. A person of irreligious life, or of infidel opinions, will not be easily tempted to read a professedly religious paper; nor will a drunkard bestow either his pence or his minutes upon what bears on its front the name of 'Temperance Advocates.' It must, however, be admitted that both the friends of religion and the advocates of temperance consider their respective causes to have been great gainers directly by the popular press. That they have gained exceedingly by the indirect process cannot be doubted.
Upon one class of periodical publications it has
not been deemed necessary to dwell—those of the not been defined necessary to dwell—those of the newspaper press, sometimes called the public press, as if all other works proceeded from private printing offices. The use of these journals is in-calculable; their importance both to the legislature, the courts of justice, the police department, is incontestable; and to the rights and to the lesser interests of the community their value is such as can only be duly estimated in countries which either never enjoyed such advantages, or have lost them through their wilful folly, possibly their crimes. But in less important respects these publications are of no little value; they are a source of constant entertainment, rational, and even useful. 'Had I all the money,' and even useful. 'Had I all the money,' says one writer, 'which I pay in taxes to Govern ment, at liberty to lay out upon amusement and diversion, I know not whether I would make choice of any in which I should find greater Nor are these the words of an ignorant pleasure. Nor are these the words of an ignorant or an ordinary person: they are those of a great divine and philosopher; they are Paley's, in his Moral Philosophy. He shows how the newspapers 'minister,' as he says, 'to the harmless gratification of multitudes,' and adds that 'the secrecy, the jealousy, the solitude, and precipitation of despotic governments exclude all this.' He did the search that widdle state between universities. not live to see that middle state between entire exclusion and full possession of which the last 70 years have furnished, in certain countries, signal aple. It would be wrong if we did not advert to the great improvement in one material particular of the newspaper press in our time. The papers which made a traffic of slander have ceased from among us. For a while they acted like a drain to carry off the impurities which had before been diffused over other journals; the good sense both diffused over other journals; the good sense both of the public and of literary men, has now filled up a sewer no longer wanted, and, to all appearance, that portion of the press no longer exists. But it is truly grievous to think that, for some portions of the press, though not in those now under consideration — certain religious now under consideration — certain religious pressure should rather saw perhaps. newspapers—we should rather say, perhaps, colling themselves religious—there is still a themselves religious-there want of the drain; because impurities there abound, extremely offensive. We there find, through the virulence of a factious spirit, outrages

the demand ought to be greater; and the example of the United States is cited, where the number of journals is very much larger in proportion to the number of the people; where, indeed, a newspaper is reckoned so much an article of necessity, that no sooner is a spot in the forest cleared for a that no sooner is a spot in the forest cleared for a village than a printing-press is sent for. The political situation of America is probably the cause of this. The nature of the government throws the whole country into a never ceasing state of party agitation, there being no office, from the highest to the lowest, from President to penny postman, which may not be changed at each renewal of that high functionary's term; and thus the whole period of his incumplence. and thus the whole period of his incumbency is passed in canvass and cabal. There seems every reason to think that with us there is already an abundant supply of the article in question; that even Paley would have been of this opinion; that he would have been suspicious of any scheme which tended to deteriorate its quality; that, above all, whatever objection he might have made and most justly to the tax, he would have received with entire reprobation any proposal of reducing its price by a piracy upon literary property. It thus appears that for the treatment of every subject, and to suit the condition, the capacity, and the taste of every class, there is ample provision made in the popular literature of the age; that the means are afforded of encouraging those to read who would else devote their hours of rest to mere listless vacancy of thought, or to dissipated courses; that the oppor-tunity of fuller instruction is given to those who are desirous and capable of receiving it; that while all are thus greatly improved, some are made fit to improve others; that the instinct of curiosity effectually prevents all risks, converting, when desirable, superficial into solid information, but leaving even partial acquirement to do substantial good; and there is thus the clearest proof afforded of the people's instructors working out the ends of Providence by the employment of the means bountifully placed within their reach, improving the mass of their fellow-creatures through the intelligence bestowed, and the instincts implanted by the Heavenly Father, who desireth not that His children should perish in the darkness of ignorance, but rather that they should learn and

The address was delivered with all his Lordship's accustomed vigour of action and expression, and was warmly applauded throughout.

FINE ARTS.

Holbein's Dance of Death, exhibited in elegant Engravings on Wood, with a Dissertation on the several Representations of that Subject. By Francis Douce, Esq., F.A.S. Also Holbein's Bible Cuts, consisting of ninety Illustrations on Wood, with Introduction by Thomas Frognall Dibdin. (Bohn's "Illustrated Library.")

which made a traffic of slander have ceased from among us. For a while they acted like a drain to carry off the impurities which had before been diffused over other journals; the good sense both of the public and of literary men, has now filled up a sewer no longer wanted, and, to all appearance, that portion of the press no longer exists. But it is truly grievous to think that, for some portions of the press, though not in those now under consideration — certain religious newspapers—we should rather say, perhaps, calling themselves religious—there is still awant of the drain; because impurities there abound, extremely offensive. We there find, through the virulence of a factious spirit, outrages upon decorum and truth — to say nothing of Christian charity—which have made pious men refuse to read them, declaring they had much rather see such things served up in the naked simplicity of common slander than smothered in religious thoughts. It has been contended that our newspaper press, by the paper duty and other circumstances, is hampered so as to make the supply fall short of the effectual demand. This may well be doubted. But it is further said that

themselves in a more abiding form. It appears indeed from the 14th to the 16th centuries to have formed one of the most common picture lessons in churches and religious houses. In Italy, Spain, France, Switzerland, and England we have evidence of the existence of paintings of Macabre dances of wide-spread celebrity; but evidence is constantly accumulating also, that many humble villages as well as the capital towns had their painted skeleton moralities. The references to particular pictures, or to personages of the dance, by our poets and popular writers,—from Piers Plowman, Lydgate, and Chaucer, down to Shakspeare and Stow—prove how long it continued to be in all its parts familiar to the general mind in this country; and the literature of other countries bears similar testimony. No wonder, then, that when engraving came to the assistance of printing, in appealing to the popular sentiment the 'Dance of Death,' should have commended itself to the artist and the publisher. Many engravings of the Dance were issued towards the end of the 15th and at the beginning of the 16th century; but one at length towered so far above its fellows in all respects that in later times it came to stand as the representative of its class. This, commonly known as 'Holbein's Dance of Death,' was published at Lyons in 1538, in a small quarto volume of forty-one cuts, with the title of "Les Simulachres et historiées faces de la Mort, autant elegammēt pourtraictes que artificiellement imaginees." In a few years it passed through many editions, in the course of which several new cuts were added; and its success was further shown by its being widely pirated and imitated, whilst previous works of the same kind passed into oblivion. In truth it was a work of rare genius: a masterpiece in composition, and exquisitely engraved. Rubens told Sandrart that he had in his early days copied the whole of it, and he advised his young friend to study it if he wished to learn how to design: and a youthful student of pictorial composition may study it w

The volume selecte us will to the artist, the Arteritic, and, we should think, to a large section of the general public also, be the most attractive which Mr. Bohn has yet included in his "Illustrated Library." It contains fac-similes of all the woodcuts in Holbein's famous 'Dance of Death,' in his 'Alphabet of Death,' and in his 'Old Testament Designs,' with the dissertations of Messrs. Douce and Dibdin on those remarkable examples of the wood-engraver's art. It is in fact an exact reprint in a single volume of the 'Dance of Death' and 'Bible Cuts,' as edited by these gentlemen. But it might well have been something more. Since their works appeared, very considerable additions have been made to the common stock of information respecting the matters on which they wrote; and if no new information had been brought to light they are so far from being now regarded as authorities in questions of Art-criticism or archeological inquiry, that their lucubrations ought hardly to have been reprinted without being placed in the hands of a competent editor. As it is, the essays appear precisely as when first published, without a single correction of even the most obvious mistake, a word of additional matter, or the briefest introduction to warn the student that the inquiry is no longer in the state in which those writers left it, and to direct him where he may find more recent and trustworthy informa-

tion.

These remarks apply more particularly to the 'Dance of Death.' Douce had his attention directed to the subject as early as 1793, when he undertook to write an introductory essay to a series of prints from the engravings of Wenceslas Hollar. The plates were inaccurate and worthless: the essay was suited to them. But Douce brooded over the theme for forty years, examined early editions, bought books, collected information, and in 1833 gave the result of his maturer studies to the world in the "Dissertation" and accompanied by the fac-similes which are here reprinted. It is impossible to praise the "Dissertation" very highly. It is evidently the composition of a mind of narrow grasp. But it is pains

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taking, minute, and embodies a large amount of curious information. It has been roughly handled in Germany and in England. Later writers have sought farther and found more. But Douce cleared the way for them, and his essay forms the basis of all subsequent inquiries. Some errors he effectually disposed of. The "Macabre Dance" he proved was not as commonly understood, socalled from the name of its originator, but, most probably in honour of St. Macaire, whose legend represents him as impressing the uncertainty of life on three noblemen by confronting them with as many skeletons—an opinion in which the latest French writer on the subject (M. Hippolyte Fortoul) entirely coincides, and which is indeed generally received. That the 'Dance of Dath' painted on a wall of the cemetery of the Dominican convent at Basle was not, as tourists continually repeated, the work of Holbein he also proved; but then, though a vulgar error, no one who had paid any attention to the matter was deceived by it. But another correction, and that on which he most prided himself, has not been so well received. He undertook to prove that Holbein was not the designer of the famous woodcuts of the 'Dance, with which his name had always been associated. Douce's main, and indeed only positive, argument was based on a statement in the dedicatory preface to the original edition of the cuts, that he who had conceived (invente) these designs had himself been carried off by Death before he could complete them; and it was added that he left the cuts of 'Death and the Waggoner' (No. 46), and the 'Last Judgment' unfinished.

It is hard to understand why Douce should have been so harshly censured for supposing that this passage was decisive. The preface appeared in 1538, Holbein lived till 1554. If by inventor was meant, as the word is generally understood to mean, the designer, it is plain that either the writer must have been strangely misinformed, or Holbein could not have been the designer; and a writer employed by the publishers and owners of the blocks might fairly be supposed to be correctly instructed as to the person who designed them. Douce rejected the suggestion of Ottley that the engraver and not the designer was really meant. But this is the opinion now generally adopted; and it seems to meet the difficulty. The reference to the unfinished state of two of the blocks is much more appropriate to the work of the engraver than that of the designer, and the cut of the 'Waggoner' when first published was unfinished in the engraving. Moreover the writer is evidently quite ignorant of the ordinary language of art, and probably supposed that the engraver and the designer were the same person. It may be, too, that the publishers had bought the blocks as a trade speculation, with little if any knowledge of the designer. At any rate, Massmann, Rumohr, Elissen, Fortoul, and other recent continental as well as English writers on the 'Dance of Death,' agree in rejecting the hypothesis of Douce, and adhering to the old opinion. Indeed, if style and power go for anything, the cuts "reject the claim of any meaner hand," while it is hard to believe that one of equal rank would have died and left no name. A little circumstance, first pointed out by Professor Massmann, is not without its value in the identification of Holbein as the designer. Although he had nothing to do with painting the Basle 'Dance of Death,' Holbein was a native of Basle (or went there with his father when a child), and we may be sure was familiar with the paintings, on the pos-session of which all the citizens prided themselves. Now, according to Massmann, two of the figures of Death in the woodcuts-(in No. XI., where Death is clad as a jester, and in No. XXXV., where he beats the tabor before the newly-married couple)-are exact copies of figures in the

Basle paintings.

But it is time to turn to the cuts themselves. We will not repeat the praises of them as designs. They are really wonderful productions, overflowing with meaning,—now a quiet touch of pathos, now a sharp stroke of satire, now a deep truth eatching the eye of the most listless reader while the over appropriate variety of attitude and

expression, and the remarkable way in which every line of the composition tells, become more and more apparent as they are more thoroughly scrutinised. As examples of wood engraving they are extremely fine—free and flowing, yet clear, firm, and sharp in line, and, without any niggling or prettiness of execution, every expression is dis tinetly brought out. The fac-similes before us are printed from the blocks employed in Douce's work. They were engraved on wood by Messrs. Bonner and Byfield. Another series of facsimiles was made about the same time by Professor J. Schlotthauer. These are drawn on stone, but with such singular skill, that it requires some attention to distinguish them from wood engravings. First published at Munich in 1832, with an accompanying essay by Professor Massmann, Schlotthauer's fac-similes have been republished in Paris (1843), with a dissertation by M. Hippolyte Fortoul, and again in London (1849), with an anonymous "Historical and Literary Intro-

Feeling some interest in the question of facsimile reproduction, we have been at the trouble of carefully comparing every one of the 49 cuts in these two sets of fac-similes with the originals of the first three editions. Of course we cannot give the result of the collation in detail, but we may state broadly that, whilst both are on the whole very faithful, both display in almost every cut some minute inaccuracies. Chiefly the failure is in the niceties of expression in the face and hands. The Douce woodcuts are, singularly enough, better than Schlotthauer's in general outline, are very inferior in expression-which the German always succeeds in giving, though not always in giving the right—and they scarce ever have either mouth or nose precisely like the originals, in which these features are always admirably rendered. The hands and feet in the English cuts are also very inferior. In the originals again there is in almost every cut a spice of grim humour thrown into the head of the Death, and this is usually assisted by the shading of the sightless sockets. This does not appear to have been seen and is never rendered by the English engravers. Schlotthauer has evidently caught the idea though he has failed to reproduce it. the most wonderful prints of the whole series that which depicts the ghastly mirth of the party of Deaths who, as musicians, are "making their voices heard,"—is lost to a great extent in both. Some of the cuts in the English series (as Nos. 13, 21, 28, and especially 18, 34, 35, and 36) are indeed almost libels on Holbein. Speaking of the English cuts generally, we may say that the heads seem mostly enlarged in size and vulgarised in expression, and that the outlines are too thick. Certainly they give but a very inadequate notion of the variety and power of the originals, and still more inadequately represent their refinement. The Schlotthauer versions are better—at least in the German and French editions: in the English edition the stones are either worn or badly printed perhaps both.

The original cuts of Holbein's 'Alphabet of Death' appear beyond doubt to have been engraved by Hans Lützelburger. By general assent they are ranked among the most exquisitely refined examples of wood-engraving extant. Since Douce's fac-similes of them were published two other series have appeared: one by Heinrich Lödel, which was published for the first time at Gottingen with Dr. Elissen's historical essay on the 'Dance of Death,' and again at Cologne (in 1849), with very clever marginal or border designs of a corresponding character, printed in a sepia-tint, from the originals of Georg Osterwald; the other in Paris in 1856. We have compared all these, and are bound to say that here again the English version is the least excellent. Lödell's is very near perfection.

Having spoken of the curious matter which might have been added, of a kind to interest or to amuse the English reader, we are tempted to quote an ingenious suggestion made by M. Anatole de Montaiglon in the French work we have just referred to—"Hans Holbein's 'Alphabet of Death,' illustrated with old borders,

engraved on wood, with Latin sentences and

engraved on wood, with Latin sentences and English quatrains, selected by A. de M.," and "imprinted by Firmin Didot, Brothers, at the expenses of Edwin Tross." He says—
"On these letters we will now add a curious remark, which, we believe, has not yet been made. In the eleven first letters we find the subjects in the traditional order without any witho jects in the traditional order, without any relation between them. So we see, as in all the series, the Dance begun by the Death the Musician, and followed, in order of rank, by the Pope, the Emperor, the King, the Cardinal, the Empress, the Bishop, the Nobleman, the Burgess or Merchant, and the Priest. But, from the letter M to the end, it may be remarked, and I owe this hint to Mr. Henry Bordier, that each letter is the beginning of the Latin name of the character represented. So, at M we see the Medicus; at N, the banker Numerarius; at O, a fat monk, Obesus Monachus; at P, a fighting soldier, Proliator. The Q is less clear; the obedient nun who quietly follows Death, might, however, be called in Latin, Quieta, Quassata, or Queribunda Monache. But the R is quite certain, for we find in it, Ridens or Ridiculus fatuus. In the S we have the luxurious [lascivious] woman, Scortum. The Tis somewhat troublesome; yet, in the minstrel driven to the ground and urged to drink by a facetious skeleton, we may read Titubans he At V the galloping horseman is perhaps Veloz homo; at W the ancient hermit is Wetustissimus homo, the superlative being marked by the repe tition of the same letter. At X we have de-S into X is not at all inadmissible, since, in the subsequent letter, the artist has used Ynfans, when the ordinary form is infans. As to Z, it is used like the Greek a, to import the idea of the end; and, consequently, the artist has put in it the last judgment, the end of this earthly world, as Z is the end of the alphabet. Some of these interpretations may certainly be modified and improved; but we hold as indisputable the idea of seeking in the last thirteen letters the beginning of the Latin name of the intended characters."

This, at any rate, is ingenious, and it appears to us to be true. The reader who may take our advice, and purchase the volume under notice, will perhaps find some amusement in tracing out the idea, and in trying his hand at amending those interpretations which M. de Montaiglon

admits are capable of improvement.

Holbein's 'Old Testament Designs' were like the Dance of Death' first published at Lyons, in 1538, and, like that work, were frequently reprinted. They are bolder and broader and more sketchy in style than the cuts of the 'Dance of Death,' but bear no less unmistakeably the impress of genius. About the best of them there is a simplicity, directness, and vigour, which are as delightful as they are rare. It is certainly not too much to say that in their way they are un-

approached. The fac-similes of them in the work before us the blocks being the same as were used for Dibdin's book) were executed by John and Mary Byfield (brother and sister). Another series of fac-similes, but only about 50 in number (the Byfield fac-similes number 90) by a very able German wood engraver, Herr Burkner, was published at Leipzig in 1850. We have carefully examined both these series alongside of Holbein's own cuts in the edition of 1547, and we should have great difficulty in choosing between them. Both are excellent. Occasionally in both,—sometimes in one, sometimes in the other, -the remarkable variety and force of individual expression which everywhere distinguish the originals are missed. Sometimes, as in the charming bit of landscape in Plate 20, the grace of the original is not preserved by either Burkner or the Byfields; but such shortcomings are perhaps inevitable, and we gladly pronounce both to be in our opinion very we gradly pronounce both to be in our opinion very admirable copies of a work which it is exceedingly difficult to copy satisfactorily. The Byfield Bible fac-similes are very far superior to those of the 'Dance of Death,' though John Byfield was one of the two engravers employed on that work. Thus, then, after subjecting these fac-similes to

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the severest possible test—that of a minute com-parison of them one by one with the originals, and with the best German and French fac-similes we feel ourselves justified in recommending we seel ourselves justined in recommending them to the confidence of our readers; the 'Dance of Death' and the 'Alphabet' with some reserva-tion, the Bible prints without any. And when it is remembered that besides the "Dissertations" the volume contains more than a hundred and fifty cuts, all tolerably, and some minutely faithful copies of those marvellous works—of the exact size of the originals and imitated stroke for stroke size of the originals and initiated stroke for stroke and line and line—and that, instead of being pre-pared for the wealthy only, it is obtainable for a few shillings, it is impossible not to feel that the publisher has conferred a real boon on the student at the lover of art, and to wish the restrict the and the lover of art, and to wish the venture the fullest measure of success.

To the existing attractions of the Great Globe Mr. Wyld has just added a new Diorama of China. Without going beyond Leicester Square, the veriest cockney may now visit at his ease, not merely the ports opened to European commerce by the recent treaty, and the scenes of the late war, but many of the most famous, and, until war, but many of the most almost, and, through now, most inaccessible places in the Celestial Empire. Starting from that modern purgatory, Hong Kong, you sail by Lintin Island to Boca Tigris and the Bogue Forts, Tiger Island, Whampoa, the French and Dutch Follies, and so on to Canton, passing on the way Chinese craft of all kinds, from the most pompous and top-heavy junk and the swift opium ship to the humblest duck-boat or bamboo-raft. Then, after tracing the walls, noting Commissioner Yeh's dwelling and execution-ground, and the dwellings of the outside barbarians, you proceed on your voyage to the several new ports in succession, staying for a nearer view of Nankin and the famous Porcelain Tower; running close in shore at the Gulf of Pechele in order to examine the termination of recase in order to examine the termination of the Great Wall; and making a note of the forts and defences of the Peiho river. You end your travels in Pekin city itself; which—after having first amused yourself awhile outside the walls in watching the humours of a Chinese fair in watching the humours of a Chinese fair — you are not only permitted to enter, but are courteously invited to survey, undisturbed by the gaping canaille, from the balcony of the Palace of the Chief Mandarin, and in close proximity to the dwelling of the Emperor. The views are painted in a free dashing style, somewhat over gy in colour, but effective, and animated with well-sketched and envirted groups of Chinese of well-sketched and spirited groups of Chinese of all grades and in every variety of occupation. The views in short may serve for direct instruc-tion or as a useful pictorial commentary on the letters of "Our Special Correspondent," and on states of "Our Special Correspondent," and on the proceedings of our Envoy—perhaps also as a substantial preparation for the porcelain rarities premised by the inimitable Albert. To the young lik, with whom the Diorama seems to be in great favour, it will give vivid impressions of the Howery Land. For the benefit of parents who Flowery Land. For the benefit of parents who are a little scrupulous as to correctness even in a dorama, we may add that the programme states that the views (26 in number) are painted "from drawings and sketches by Lieut.-Col. Kennedy, Col. P. Anstruther, Lord Cochrane, Major Edwards, Capt. Hall, R.N., the Hon. East India Company, Native Drawings, and Private Sketches by Officers of the Army and Navy;" so that if great names are a guarantee, these, with the speradded geographical authority of Mr. Wyld, eight to be a sufficient voucher that the views are accurate—so far, that is, as the exigences of doramic effect will permit.

The Guards' Crimean Memorial is about to be tested in Waterloo Place. The Memorial, cast from Russian guns, is composed of four large sques, standing on a granite pedestal; it will face stream and the make it is accordated to be placed in the property of the stream and the make it is accordated to be placed in cating, and the work is expected to be placed in losition by the 5th proximo, the anniversary of the battle of Inkermann.

THE DRAWA AND MUSIC.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.—The production of Herr Flotow's Martha in an English dress was scarcely a politic step on the part of the Pyne and Harrison management. First, the work itself and Harrison management. First, the work risent was neither worth the trouble nor the outlay spent on it; and secondly, "the goodly edifice" of English National Opera, which the patriotic managers protest they are so anxious to "rear," is not likely to advance very rapidly on the shoulders of a fifth-rate German composer.

In other respects much praise may be fairly bestowed on the first performance of Martha, which took place on Monday night in presence of which took place of stonday light in presence of a crowded audience. Above all, the ensemble was well cared for, the mise en scène being in almost every respect commendable, and the band and chorus working famously under the direction of their experienced and zealous conductor, Mr. Alfred Mellon, who may be regarded as one of the main props of the Drury Lane Opera. Miss L. Pyne is a thoroughly finished artist in her way; but the part of Martha—at least the music of the part—is unsuited to her. Nor was Madame Bosio much happier in this particular. She, like her English contemporary, was born to sing music that is singable; and the music allotted to Martha is in a great measure the reverse of vocal, awkward to execute, and ungrateful to the voice. Thus Miss Louisa Pyne, following the example set by Madame Bosio, made her greatest effect in the ballad of "The Last Rose of Summer," which she sang perhaps even better, and with purer expression than her accomplished predecessor, eliciting an encore that there was no plea for declining. Why, by the way, was not the English version made the pretext for restoring Moore's beautiful stanzas? They would assuredly fit the situation just as closely as the doggrel of Mr. T. H. Reynoldson.

Here is the place to offer a friendly warning to Miss Louisa Pyne, whose charming voice begins to show evidence of fatigue. She has been singing every night since the opening of the theatre in one of the most arduous parts ever written, viz. the heroine of the Rose of Castille. She will have to perform the same laborious task in Mr. Balfe's forthcoming new opera, from which so much is expected, and on which the success of the season depends. Surely it would have been more prudent to take advantage of *Martha's* appearance in the bills, and secede for a while. Had Miss Louisa Pyne confided Herr Flotow's heroine to the charge of some other singer, if only for the sake of obtaining a little repose, the public and the interests of the theatre would alike have been gainers. The value of our admirable prima donna's services to the new undertaking cannot be over-estimated; and it is mere wantonness to risk even their temporary loss, under any circumstances whatsoever. Miss Louisa Pyne should remember the goose and the golden eggs—a simile, of which the propriety rather than the freshness will probably strike our readers. She might also bear in mind that even Bottom, the weaver, with all his enthusiaer, could not releve rewetting. all his enthusiasm, could not play everything.

Of the rest of the dramatis personæ in Martha, as represented at Drury Lane Theatre, it is unnecessary to say much. That Mr. Harrison, in Lionel, would efface the impression left by Signor Lionel, would efface the impression left by Signor Mario, no one expected; and so on that head no one was disappointed. The singing of this gentleman (whose voice, although he has done just as hard work as Miss L. Pyne, runs small chance of being damaged) was marked by peculiarities for which it has ever been distinguished, accompanied by a certain earnestness to which the public favour he has long enjoyed is apparently due, and which alone, indeed, could weigh in the halance argainst defects of method and style that balance against defects of method and style that are notorious. His most successful effort was the ballad "She appear'd, clothed in light!" ("Marta, Marta!") into which he introduced an abundance of falsetto that enchanted "the gods," and won an uproarious encore for the singer. Add to the two encores already mentioned, a third for the quartet at the spinning wheels, and we

have described the full quotient of these nuisances, which too frequently are enforced by a minority of which too frequently are enforced by a minority of the audience at the expense of the majority. The translation of the words of the spinning-wheel quartet may as well be cited en passant, as a tolerable specimen of the manner in which the English adapter, Mr. Reynoldson, has accomplished the duty imposed on him:—

the duty imposed on him :—

Plun, and Lionel. With your foot the wheel round whirling,
Hold this in your hand, d'ye see!

Draw it gently, keep it twirling;
Strong, yet fine, your thread must be.
Br., br., br., ke., &c.
Hen. and Nancy. Thus beginning to learn spinning,
Nought more comical can be.
With his whirling and his twirling,
Master of the art is he.

Lie, and Plun. Do you see now?

Ha, na, na
Do you see now?
Yes, I see!
Understand you?
Yes, I see! Lio, and Plun. Hen, and Nancy. Lio, and Plun. Hen, and Nancy.

Mr. J. G. Patey, the new barytone, seemingly possesses a good voice; but he has much to learn before he can be accepted as a genuine vocalist, while as an actor he is at present a nullity. He was received with indulgence, but failed to make was received with indusgence, our anieu to make any sensation, even in the common-place apostrophe to "beer" (Act III.), which invariably used to obtain an encore for Sig. Graziani, at the Royal Italian Opera. The gentleman who impersonated the Sheriff of Richmond (another importation), is what, in the conventional slang of dramatic criticism would be denominated "a stick." Before venturing another word, however, either in dis-paragement or the opposite of Mr. T. Grattan Kelly, it is better to wait until the string of his nerve, having bended the bow of his "physique," shall permit him to launch the shafts of his intelligence at ease. Just now he is impervious to criticism. Miss Susan Pyne was a lively Nancy; but the music is not well suited to her voice, and she was evidently ill at ease throughout the performance. Mr. G. Honey, though striving his utmost to be funny, was not diverting as *Lord Tristan de Mickleford*. He seems to forget, moreover, that one part of the task of a lyric comedian over, that one part of the task of a lyric comedian is to sing. In that respect we are sorry to observe that Mr. Honey makes no progress, notwithstanding a voice of considerable depth and range. The seene where Martha and Nancy persuade Lord Tristan to accompany them to the fair, and endeavour to teach him the peasant's dance, it is true, more than once revived the glories of Mr. Honey's terpsichorean feats in the pantomime of Bluff King Hal (at the Princess's Theatre); yet it is greatly to be feared that the senseless risibility is greatly to be readed that the senseress institute excited by his "Why didn't you say so at wo-a-nce?" in the Rose of Castille, is beginning to turn his head, and to nip in the bud such promise as he displayed at the outset.

Meanwhile, rumour states (upon what authority we are unable to say) that in consequence of some disagreement with Mr. E. T. Smith, Mr. Balfe's new opera (founded on the ballet of *Le Diable* Amoureux) will not be brought out at Drury Lane Theatre, but at the Royal Italian Opera. The story goes that Mr. E. T. Smith had pledged himself to provide scenery for Martha, and that having failed to redeem that pledge, Miss Louisa Pyne

failed to redeem that pledge, Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. Harrison forthwith arrested the progress of Mr. Balfe's work, the scenery for which would of course have been at the disposal of the Drury Lane lessee after the expiration of their tenure.

A rambling incoherent letter has been sent to our office, which, while treating of irrelevant matters, appears to have some mysterious connection with the rumour abovementioned, and which is evidently the composition of some one in the anti-Harrison interest. We present it, verbatim et literatim, in case our more initiated readers may be able to gather anything from its contents, disclaiming at the same time all participation in the sentiments and opinions it maintains :-

ESTABLISHED ENGLISH OPERA AT DRUBY LAME. To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

Sir
The Indedfatigable Exertions of Mr. W. Harrison and Miss Pyne in Engaging the first Talent for Establishing English Operas in this Country is beyond all praise, altho it is altitle bit of the Anglo American Twaddle Ithink, I waited to see "English" Martha," announced and then

the English Opera Company (of course barring Miss Pyne) who is "not engaged" the other portion of the firm I put on a par with the other great stars.

Lord Tristan Mr. George Honey the gentleman a very good low comedian in the Pandomine at Drury Lane Theatre Mr. Patey and Mr. Kelly. aspirants perhaps the apprentices to Pyne & Harrison as they were never heard of before, (and I never wish to hear them again), Mr. Kriby and Miss Susan Pyne put their whole Salaries at the most Twenty Pounds per Week, this Expense to the Pyne & Harrison of Company must be the cause of their success, or Balfes or Flotows operas; or the Band and Chorus (which is really Efficient) no, I beg pardon, It is the great Tenor, and his liberal offers to Ladies, and gentlemen for the great good it will do them to sing "in such a Company"—Independent of the "liberal salaries" offered by parties who are patronized by the British public, (humbug) why was not Mr Weiss Engaged? and other artistes of Known Talent and Respectability, echo says why? but you shall know—Excuse ne saying more this Week—the harmony of Patey and Kelly in two Irish Tunes have overpowered me. The Mise en Scene was produced entirely under the direction of Mr. Stirling the Stage Manager and to that Gentleman I hear we are entirely indebted for "the Excellent manner it has been placed upon the Stage.

I am Mr. Editor Stirling the Stage we are entirely indebted for the been placed upon the Stage.

I am Mr. Editor
Your constant reader

Nour constant reader GAG.

P.S. Disobedient Chorus
One of the management of the Pyne and Harrison Company (who is a Tectotaller) gave orders that Every thing required in the shape of refreshment should be taken to the Dressing Rooms. The Chorus not having been used to such treatment united and would have struck; but the ORDER was rescinded and they were allowed to breather the fresh air between the Acts, the only "atr" in the Neighbourhood they unanimously decided worth enjoying except Louisa Pyne's.
Rumour states that the Pyne and Harrison Company go to Covent Garden. this accounts for stopping the Expense of getting up "New Scenery for Balfe's New Opera,"

HAYMARKET THEATRE.—The appearance of Mr. Charles Matthews for the first time since his return from the United States, on Monday last, filled this house to suffocation. London Assurance was the play in which, as Dazzle, he received the welcome of the public, and most enthusiastic and downright were their gratulations, lasting some minutes ere the object of them was allowed to open his lips. In the same piece Mr. Matthews's newly-espoused wife made her $d\ell but$ in London as Lady Gay Spanker, and was a sharer in the welcome accorded to her husband. She is decidedly a favourable specimen of the female beauty of America, has a sprightly manner and a good stock of spirits.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.-The managers of this prosperous establishment have departed from their hitherto prescribed domain of comedy and farce to produce a drama entirely of serious interest, entitled the *Red Vial*. Its author is Mr. Wilkie Collins, whose dramatic achievements up to the present effort had been limited to two rather remarkable sketches, written for the corps of amateurs associated with Mr. Dickens in various charitable enterprises. His object in this instance has evidently been to provide a character for Mr. Robson, in which the powers which he has from time to time evinced for serious effect, should be exclusively employed, and a double interest therefore was created in the fate of a work which was at once to test the capabilities on a larger canvas of a young author who had given signs of considerable inventive power and originality in works of more reduced scope, and to justify or refute the opinion of those who believe Mr. Robson to be equally gifted as a comic and as a serious actor. The ordeal, it must be confessed, has resulted unfavourably in both cases.

First let us sketch the main design of the plot. Two personages occupy the foreground, both members of the household of *Isaac Rodenberg*, a Jewish merchant of Frankfort. One is his housekeeper, the widow of a certain Dr. Bergmann, renowned for chemical knowledge, the other is a poor half-witted menial, by name Hans Grimm, whom the merchant has rescued from a madhouse, and entrusted with a few simple domestic duties, among which is the guardianship of the office keys. The widow has a grown-up daughter, *Minna*, who is betrothed to *Karl*, the son of *Rodenberg's* partner, Max Keller, and the play commences with a conversation between the parents of the young lovers, which terminates in the fixing of a

certain date, the 3rd of August, for the proposed This date is an important point in the story, as also is a strong feature of Keller's character, discovered by the dialogue in question, namely, a generous indifference to sordid interests which induces him to let his son, though wealthy, marry a girl without a penny, and the concomitant of which is an abhorrence of people who don't pay their debts. The interview over, the widow left alone exhibits her intense maternal feelings by her joy at the happy prospect which opens for her daughter, but at the same time the most marked uneasiness and dissatisfaction at Keller's sentiments on the subject of pecuniary liabilities, which render it probable that the widow is not entirely immaculate on that point. Very sud-denly is the truth of this conjecture established, on the abrupt entry of Rodenberg in a state of terrible agitation, the cause of which he proceeds to explain to the widow by the aid of two ledgers. He has been robbed of money due to his partner, and the delinquent, to conceal the defalcation, has falsified an entry in one of the books. The widow trembles and turns pale, but soon recovers, and directs the merchant's suspicions on poor Hans Grimm, who, as keeper of the keys, is the only person who could gain access to the strong Hans' devotion to his master is the mainspring of his existence, and when charged with the crime he becomes frantic. His misery, though sharp, is not of long duration; for the discovery of a bottle belonging to Madame Bergmann, on which are written directions for the application of its contents to the removal of inkmarks from paper, transfer suspicion on her. The guilty widow confesses all, and pleads, as an excuse, her love for her child, explaining that the money was taken by her to pay debts which, if Keller had discovered, he would have broken off the match with his son and ruined her daughter's happiness. All that she can prevail on the merchant to grant is a delay of six months to repay the money; if it be not forthcoming on a certain day mentioned as the settling day between the partners, Rodenberg declares his intention to reveal all to Keller. This day is exactly that which follows the appointed wedding-day, and with this calculation Madame Bergmann thankfully consoles herself. The second act, however, finds her again in the depth of despair, the wedding having been put off through the intervening death of *Mrs. Keller*, and the appointed interval for restoring the money having elapsed with the exception of one day. *Rodenberg* is ill in bed, in which position he is introduced to the audience, his bedroom occupying one half the stage and the housekeeper's apartment adjoining thereto the other. A final appeal is made to Rodenberg's mercy, the widow being enabled to give the utmost effect to her pleading by calling the merchant's attention to the lovers, who, in the adjoining room, are prattling in unsuspecting innocence—a touching picture of confiding happiness which his obduracy will marfor ever. The appeal fails. In an agony of despair the widow is tempted to avoid the consequences of one crime by another of a still deeper dye. In a medicine chest left by her husband, she has found an assortment of subtle poisons, graduated in their intensity to destroy life within a nicely calculated period. Madame Bergmann chooses one of the swiftest, contained in a "red vial," and mixes the required quantity in the sick man's lemonade. The antagonism which, ever since the false accusation of which Hans Grimm had since the false accusation of which Hans trimms had been a victim, had arisen between the merchant's crazy but faithful servant and the treacherous housekeeper, has sharpened his wits into a keen watchfulness of Madame Bergmann. He is thus induced to creep unseen into her room, and sees her visit the medicine chest. Dimly apprehending damages to his matter from the drayaged lemon. ing danger to his master from the drugged lemonade, he throws it away, and substitutes the con-tents of a bottle from the same source as the red vial, which a paper, in which it is wrapped, de-clares to be "good against poison." The anti-dote is a narcotic, and *Rodenberg's* death appa-rently ensues as a result, the widow believes, of

The third act discloses the interior of the dead

house at Frankfort—an establishment to which all persons dying in that city are removed until a sufficient period has elapsed to preclude all danger sufficient period has etapsed to precune all danger of burying alive. A rope is attached to the arm of the body, and if any motion occur a hand revolving on a dial is moved, and a bell is rung. A long gloomy corridor is seen, along which the A long gloomy corridor is seen, along which the cells for the reception of the dead are placed, and over the door of each is the alarum-dial described. Rodenberg occupies one of these cells. Keller, Hans, and the widow have accompanied the supposed corpse. The latter two are induced to remain—one from fear that the merchant should revive, and from a sort of horrible fascination; the other in the full belief that his master will be other in the full belief that his master will be restored to him alive; and both are locked up for the night in the awful locality. Here the denoument occurs, and retributive justice is enacted. Hans, whose knowledge of the "red wial" has been discovered by the widow, is now its possessor, she having presented it to him as an agreeable cordial in the hope that he may help him of the cordial of the ref of degrees when the cordial of the cordinal of the cordin himself, and so rid her of a dangerous enemy, Overcome with emotion the widow becomes faint, and *Hans*, to revive her, administers her own cordial in some wine which the head guardian of the dead-house had given him, and with which he has become partially fuddled. Before long, to the horror of *Madame Bergmann* and the joy of *Hans*, the hand of the dial over Rodenberg's cell is seen to revolve slowly, the alarum bell strikes, and the merchant enveloped in a black pall appears before them. He is led off by *Hans* to put on his wonted garb, which the latter has thoughtfully brought with him, while *Madame Bergmann*, maddened by the contents of the red vial, retires to the

dead cell, where she expires.

Such were the chief incidents of Mr. Wilkie Collins's drama on the first night of representation, and as such they were not at all relished by the audience. The design on their nerves exhibi-ted in the gloomy third act failed of its object, and only excited disgust in some, amusement in others, and as the scene in the dead-house was evidently the climax towards which the entire construction of the drama was industriously bent, its failure implies the condemnation of all that preceded, notwithstanding the approbation which, in ignorance of the sequel, was afforded to the early part of the play, especially the first act. The termination has since been modified by doing away with the appearance of the revived corpse, and bringing the curtain down at the point when the dial moves and the bell strikes, at which moment Madame Bergmann expires, leaving Hans in an attitude of triumph and joy. Such surgery, however, leaves the seat of the disease untouched, and will only prolong life for a brief period. Notwithstanding the talent displayed in the mere writing of the play, its faults as a work for the stage are too many and too serious to preserve it from eventual oblivion. The subject is after all of no higher order than that of the vulgarest melodrama, although the author vulgarest melodrama, although the author has evidently deluded himself with the idea that by peculiarities of treatment of the most superficial by peculiarrities of treatment of the most supermost kind, and falling within the province of mere literary style, he has, to use a homely expression, made "a silk purse out of a sow's ear." Mr. Wilkie Collins has yet to learn the simplest elements of dramatic construction; and if he purposes to devote his very manifest talents to the stage, he must convince himself that originality is not to be attained by despising the forms and methods which experience has taught, but by doing something new by a dexterous employment of established means.

The characters, by the elaboration of which alone a drama of incident is to be elevated above its natural rank, are, with the exception of Hans Grimm, played by Mr. Robson, left in the vaguest ortline. Keller and Rodenberg are almost without a mark. Madame Bergmann has, it is true, a strong maternal passion, but without the exhibition of a struggle of some sort, the motive seems insufficient for so much crime. Hans has had, however, considerable pains bestowed on him, but his half-wittedness is rather mentioned than displayed, for he tells a very connected and rational story in ter and behave and sagaci the play. Mr. Robson an over-eag laboured z in which Widow Be refined sha conveyed, To her Mr share of Addison h a great fl which he florins, an of the nat

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The I signing his guinea Coutts & C Fund.—W Dram My reason PLATS has been ples trained been ples trained by the not structure of the merits ! would l How n public further getting obstact does it advant appear

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story in terms of studied pathos in the first act, and behaves himself with marvellous discretion and sagacity through the subsequent parts of the play. In the impersonation of this character Mr. Robson is led into constant exaggeration by an over-eagerness to grasp at effect. Mrs. Sterling laboured zealously to remedy the defective state in which the author had left the part of the Widow Bergman, and by her bye-play and the refined shades of emotion which her countenance conveyed, raised it to an almost magic importance. To her Mr. Collins is indebted for the moderate share of success his work has achieved. Mr. To her Mr. Comms is indepted for the moderate share of success his work has achieved. Mr. Addison had but to paint an elderly gentleman in a great flutter at the discovery of a crime, by which he is threatened with a loss of five thousand florins, and acquitted himself with that keen sense of the natural which belongs to him.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Lamartine Fund.—Your correspondent, signing himself a "Restless Guinea," is informed that his guinea may find rest in the banking-house of Messrs. Couts & Co., who receive subscriptions to the Lamartine Fund.—W. F. G.

segmin may find rest in the banking-house of Messrahis guines may find rest in the banking-house of MessraCouts & Co., who receive subscriptions to the Lamartine
Find.—W. F. G.

Dramatic Talent not visely Encouraged.—Six,—
My reason for again troubling you is, that I cannot feel
satisfied with the conclusion at which An Ex-Radde of
Plays has arrived, nor with the manner in which he has
been pleased to dispose of what he terms my "infiniminial grievance." He intimates that my remarks amount
to nothing more than a personal attack upon Mr. Buckstone; a construction, the justice of which I am perfectly
ready and happy to deny. At the same time I beg disinchy to state, that nothing has as yet transpired which
would lead anyone to suppose that Mr. Buckstone has
either "forpotten or withdrawn his edict." That gentleman
we may presume to be the best judge of his own policy;
and I only instanced the practice of the Haymarket
anagement as one of the spokes so often placed in the
typ's wheel. Your Correspondent, however, attempts
to get rid of my objections, by assuming that "any
gentleman of respectability is able to become acquainted
provident of the standard of the brotherhood, the
Dramatic Authors' Society; so as to obtain the introductory note to the Manager." In answer to this assertion,
I put is to him whether an aspirant unacquainted with
any of the brethren, and anxious to be judged by his own
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